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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Boston's Big Dig: After water forced its way through the tunnel wall in Boston's Big Dig on Jan. 10, 2004, freezing and snarling traffic for hours, officials at first blamed the leak on water leaking from incomplete overhead construction areas, The Boston Globe reported.

The leak was similar to a September gusher.

Investigators found 29 areas where wall panels show signs of weakness and carry risk of leakage. The September leak won't be fixed completely until spring and will cost about \$750,000; repairs for other vulnerable wall spots will run into the millions.

Chicago porch collapse: Chicago city officials have accused two men of contributing to a June 2003 porch collapse that left 13 people dead, saying the pair were jumping up and down on the three-story wooden structure during a party.

William Fenton-Hathaway and John Koranda, whose brother Robert was killed in the collapse, were accused of negligence in a lawsuit filed Friday in Cook County Circuit Court.

N.Y. same-sex marriage: New York City will appeal a judge's ruling against the state ban on same-sex marriages, the mayor said Saturday.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said he wanted the issue to be settled in the state's highest court or in the Legislature.

State Supreme Court Justice Doris Ling-Cohan ruled Friday that the city clerk may not deny a license solely because a couple are of the same sex.

The mayor said he wanted to avoid "a repetition of California, when many people for a month were misled into thinking they could get the union they so much wanted," referring to same-sex marriages performed last year in San Francisco that were later invalidated.

'Suge' Knight legal trouble: Rap mogul Marion "Suge" Knight was booked on suspicion of violating his parole after police found marijuana in his truck during a traffic stop, authorities said Sunday.

Knight was arrested Saturday evening in Barstow, Calif., and held by sheriff's officials pending his transfer this week to state prison, said sheriff's Cpl. Lorraine Riser.

Knight, 39, co-founder of the pioneering rap label Death Row Records, was released from prison in 2001 after serving time for assault and weapons violations.



Stability in Somalia: Thousands of excited flag-waving Somalis line the streets of their war-scarred capital, Mogadishu, on Sunday to welcome representatives of a new government formed in neighboring Kenya in a bid to end 14 years of anarchy in this Horn of Africa nation. Leaders of the city's Islamic courts, who have sought to establish their influence in the absence of a national authority, declined to attend, saying they could support only a government founded on Islamic law.

Freight train crash: The three-man crew accused of failing to switch a railroad track before last month's freight train crash and deadly chlorine leak were fired by Norfolk Southern.

Union officials said the three men will appeal. They added each employee had at least 25 years of experience.

It was the deadliest train wreck involving hazardous material in nearly three decades.

World

Iran nuclear program: A military attack on Iran's nuclear facilities would be a mistake, the European Union's foreign policy chief said Sunday.

There is widespread international suspicion that the United States might invade or attack Iran, which it accuses of using a civilian nuclear power program to hide an illegitimate weapons program. Iran denies this.

Javier Solana told Britain's ITV television network that such a strike "would be something I would not like to see taking place." "That would be a mistake. That will complicate enormously the situation," Solana said. He added excerpts released in ad-

vance. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, on a fence-mending European tour, said Friday that an attack was "simply not on the agenda at this point."

Afghan plane crash: NATO helicopters and hundreds of police officers struggled to reach the wreckage of an Afghan commercial airliner Sunday, three days after it rammed into a snow-covered mountain peak, apparently killing all 104 people on board.

Fog, freezing temperatures and up to eight feet of snow thwarted efforts to reach the crash site of the 737-200, found Saturday about 20 miles east of Kabul.

Sudan crisis: The government will not send Sudanese citizens or officials suspected of committing war crimes in the western province of Darfur to any international court, Sudan's vice president said Saturday.

Last week, a report to the United Nations recommended 51 Sudanese stand trial at the International Criminal Court on war crimes charges related to the two-year Darfur conflict.

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Okinawa bands to play for aid effort

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Bands from all over Okinawa will come together for the Tsunami Aid Concert from 2 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, at the Camp Foster Performing Arts Center.

Tickets are \$10 and available now through all Okinawa USO offices, Kubasaki High School's JROTC and the Kadana National Honor Society. Planners will sell up to 500 tickets before the concert, then release an undetermined number of tickets at the gate as capacity allows. The Okinawan general public is allowed to enter Camp Foster through the Kitamae gate between noon and 10 p.m. for the event.

All concert revenue will go to the Red Cross International Response fund, said event co-planner and Kubasaki High School teacher Christopher Dickinson. Almost all labor, equipment and services from a host of vendors are being donated to the concert.

"The outpouring of compassion has been phenomenal," Dickinson said.

"The outpouring of compassion has been phenomenal"

Christopher Dickinson
Event planner

The money raised will go toward basic items such as food, supplies, tents and health supplies for tsunami victims. The American Red Cross will pay separately for administrative costs.

Chesty's NCO Club will sell food, but there will be no alcohol sales at the event.

Bands scheduled to perform include Murasaki, David Ralston, 8-Ball, Katchan Band, Stormwatch, Handsome Stranger, Boge's Company, Tenebrous Portrait and John Carter. Novelty acts, including an illusionist, will perform between some of the music sets.

"The interest from the bands has been great," said Jack Davies, another event co-planner along with Maxx Gallo and Troy Black. "We probably had another 10 groups that wanted to play but we just didn't have enough time for everyone to perform."

A tsunami relief concert already had been on some performers' minds. Ralston said at his recent CD release party that he'd discussed the idea with local music fixture George Murasaki. "Three minutes later, I was approached by Chris Dickinson," Ralston said. "I said, 'Anything we can do to help out, we're all about it.'"

The bands' musical styles vary. Ralston combines blues and rock riffs with traditional Okinawan music. Carter is a country singer who plays at The Harley Bar across the street from the Kitamae gate. Multiple bands play classic rock, while Tenebrous Portrait, the only higher-level band on the list, plays more contemporary music.

All performances at the concert will be family-friendly, organizers said.

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PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Ben Jacob discusses the physics of roller coasters for third- and fourth-graders at Cummings Elementary School, Misawa Air Base, Japan, on Thursday. Jacob was among a small group of fifth- and sixth-graders at Cummings who spent two months building two miniature roller coasters in their gifted education class.

Physics project takes class for a ride

Roller coaster kits teach Cummings pupils value of teamwork

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — A roller coaster can be a ride of hair-raising screams and pure fun.

Building one is another story.

Fifth- and sixth-graders in Carol Miller's gifted education class at Cummings Elementary School constructed two roller coaster replicas from a kit, each measuring about 4 feet tall and 6 feet long.

In a sixth-grade demonstration of the project at the school last week, the pupils said they learned more than just the laws of physics. "Yeah, it was hard," said Eric Adams. "We had to redo the loop four times."

Miller noted the fifth-graders finished their roller coaster first. It wasn't that they were smarter, she said, but that they worked as a team.

"They just stuck with it and read the plans, page by page," she said. "The sixth graders, they said, 'No, we don't have to work as a team; no, we don't have to follow the plans.'"

The end result, the teacher said: Their roller coaster car "kept falling into space" when attempting the loop.

"We were experimenting," explained sixth-grader Torrey Ferguson.

"When this is your first time, you can't be creative," Miller said. "You follow the engineer's plans."

But the sixth-graders persevered, came together as a team and their roller coaster glided perfectly through the loop during the demonstration. Group third- and fourth-graders gathered around the miniature coaster, with its

bright orange tracks, and wanted to know how fast the car could go and why the paper doll in the seat didn't fall out.

"I always thought it was because of the seat belt," Adams said. "It's because the forces of acceleration and gravity are equal" through the loop.

Miller has done the roller coaster project with previous classes, starting about five years ago at a Department of Defense Dependents School in Germany. She bought the kits, which have more than 1,000 pieces each, from an educational supply company in the States.



Third- and fourth-graders at Cummings watch the student-built roller coaster crest the top of a hill riding a pulley.

Even though her students knew little about physics — a subject usually not explored until high school

"I saw that it was a turn-on," Miller said. "Not only was it hands-on but they wanted to learn how this thing worked. They took it to a science fair and won a major prize."

The Cummings students said not only was the project a good lesson in teamwork but they also picked up some quirky facts about roller coasters: The Russians were the first to invent the concept, and the fastest one on the planet — a mind-boggling 128 miles per hour — is being built at Six Flags Great Escape in Jackson, N.J.

Ben Jacob said they also learned one bump or bend in the track can slow the roller coaster car enough that it won't make the loop.

That alone gave the avid roller coaster riders in the group second thoughts about boarding a real roller coaster again.

"Now that I know all this stuff about it, I'm kind of more afraid," Ferguson said.

"And how easy it is for things to go wrong," Adams added.

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Sunday warning issued at Yongsan

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — U.S. Forces Korea urged all Area II servicemen, Department of Defense workers, contractors with USFK, and their family members to "remain vigilant of potential threats" while attending religious activities off base, according to a statement released early Sunday morning from the U.S. Army Installation Management Agency's office in Seoul.

The notice cautioned USFK personnel to use caution "while attending religious activities off military installations until further notice." No further details were provided Sunday.

From staff reports

Ice cream trucks were to be attack vehicles

By DIANA ELIAS
The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — An Interior Ministry official confirmed a report that militant suspects captured in recent police raids conducted planning to use ice cream trucks packed with explosives to attack U.S. military convoys traveling to Iraq.

Some 40 terror suspects have been handed over to prosecutors since the beginning of Kuwait's unprecedented crackdown on Muslim militants last month, and more were being investigated by police, said the official, who spoke on the customary condition of anonymity.

Members of a militant group told interrogators they wanted to park the ice cream and snack vans loaded with explosives next to highways and detonate them as U.S. military convoys traveling to and from Iraq passed by, the Al-Watan daily reported on Friday.

On Sunday, most of the vans had disappeared from major highways and increased numbers of police cars were monitoring the roads.

Kuwaiti detainees claim U.S. convoys targeted

The snack vans, which also sell ice, are common on highways at this time of year when many Kuwaitis drive into the desert to camp.

Kuwaiti security forces fought with suspected militants in four deadly shootouts last month. Many Islamic militants in the country remain opposed to the presence of 18,000 U.S. troops based in the country and about 2,000 other troops who drive or guard convoys traveling between Kuwait and Iraq.

Suspects in custody include two women — the wife of the ringleader who allegedly helped him prepare explosives and the wife of one of five suspects who surrendered to police in Salabiyaah on Saturday.

One woman captured Saturday, who was identified as a "non-Kuwaiti," was "hiding a machine gun under her abaya," according to the official, referring to the black head-to-toe traditional cloak that some women in the country wear.

The official said many of the suspects were led by a militant preacher named Amer Khalfai al-Enezi, who was apprehended last month.

The Interior minister, Sheikh Nawwaf Al Ahmed Al Sabah, told lawmakers in a closed meeting recently that al-Enezi's group of 24 people targeted Americans and the country's state security police.

The militants, which included Kuwaitis, Saudi Arabians and Jordanians, were arrested before they could carry out any attacks.

The five men arrested Saturday — two Saudis and three Jordanians — were not tied to al-Enezi's terror group, but they were wanted for investigations about "many security-related suspicions," the official told The Associated Press. He said they had few weapons in their possession when they were apprehended in Salabiyaah.

In Amman, a spokesperson for the Jordanian government, Asma Khader, said she could not confirm any arrest of Jordanian nationals in Kuwait. However, she added that if the reports were correct the men "are considered outlaws and should be tried in accordance with Kuwaiti law."

The Salabiyaah operation resulted in no casualties. Eight militants and four policemen have lost their lives in four shootouts around the country since January 10.

The crackdown has prompted some Kuwaitis to give tips to authorities that has led to the arrest of suspects or the seizure of weapons.

The Al-Rai Al-Aam daily quoted a Kuwaiti Islamic Affairs official Sunday saying a Kuwaiti copy of an unlicensed book about jihad, or holy war, have been confiscated from mosques. The official did not say how many copies were taken.

Kuwait signed a security pact with the United States following the U.S.-led 1991 Persian Gulf War that liberated it from a seven-month Iraqi occupation. But militant fundamentalists who oppose the American military presence in their country have since 2002 killed one American Marine and a U.S. civilian contractor.

Four Egyptians abducted in Iraq

By JASON KEYSER
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Gunmen waylaid a minibus Sunday carrying foreign technicians to their jobs at a mobile telephone company in western Baghdad, seizing four Egyptians in the second kidnapping of foreigners in the Iraqi capital within a week.

The daylight ambush occurred only two days after gunmen grabbed an Italian woman journalist near Baghdad International, raising fears of a new wave of kidnappings after a decline in abductions since last year's capture of a rebel stronghold west of Baghdad.

Elsewhere, insurgents killed two Iraqi National Guard soldiers Sunday and wounded three others in an ambush south of Baghdad. Two rockets exploded near Baghdad International Airport and a third slammed into an Iraqi National Guard building in a western suburb.

There were no reports of casualties.

The violence has continued despite the Jan. 30 election, when Iraqis chose a new National Assembly in the first nationwide balloting since the fall of Saddam Hussein in April 2003.

A final tally is expected by Thursday, but initial returns point to a landslide by Shiite Muslim candidates endorsed by their clerics. Shiites are believed to comprise about 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million people.

On the other hand, many Sunni Arabs, estimated at 20 percent of the population and the core of the insurgency, are believed to have stayed home, either out of fear of rebel reprisal or because of a boycott call by Sunni clerics.

Meanwhile, the Polish-led security force in central Iraq will switch its focus over the coming months to training Iraq's new security services, the incoming commander said Sunday in Warsaw, Poland.

Gen. Waldemar Skrzypczak, who takes command of the 6,000-strong force on Monday, said the government that emerges from last month's Iraqi elections will need to ensure security ahead of a new vote scheduled in December, after a new constitution is agreed upon.

The four Egyptians were seized early Sunday near the Mansour district of western Baghdad, Egyptian and Iraqi officials said. They worked for Iraqia, a subsidiary of the Egyptian firm Orascom Telecommunications, which operates the mobile phone network in central Iraq.

Six other Egyptians working for Iraqia were kidnapped in two incidents in September. All were freed, although Orascom said at the time that it was committed to continuing its work in Iraq. No group claimed responsibility for the latest abduction.

On Friday, Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena was



A demonstrator walks past security forces outside the Green Zone on Sunday in Baghdad. Hundreds of Iraqis gathered to protest alleged voting irregularities in Mosul.

kidnapped by gunmen who blocked her car outside Baghdad University. Sgrena, 56, is a veteran reporter for the communist daily Il Manifesto.

A statement Saturday on an Internet bulletin board used by extremist groups said Sgrena would be subjected to the "rule of God," a phrase that usually means punishment by death in the lexicon of Islamic militant groups. The New Web message was signed by the Jihad Organization.

It wasn't clear whether the group was the same as one that posted an Internet statement hours after the abduction on Friday. In that message, a group calling itself the Islamic Jihad Organization claimed to have kidnapped the woman and gave Italy 72 hours to withdraw its troops.

Two other foreigners — Brazilian engineer Joao Jose Vasconcelos Jr., and French journalist Florence Aubeunas — were believed kidnapped last month. Al-Jazeera aired a claim of responsibility for Vasconcelos by a group that showed his identification cards. No group has claimed responsibility for kidnapping Aubeunas.

More than 170 foreigners have been taken hostage in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003, and some have been beheaded on graphic videos distributed on the Web or to Arab television stations.

The wave of abductions subsided after U.S. and Iraqi troops stormed the insurgent bastion of Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad, last November, discovering what U.S. officials termed "hostage slaughterhouses."

However, the abductions of five foreigners in Baghdad within three days raised fears of a new wave of kidnappings.

U.S. rejects charge

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. military on Sunday rejected a U.N. human rights envoy's charge that American soldiers were illegally detaining prisoners in Afghanistan, and that some may have been tortured.

Cherif Bassiouni, an independent expert on human rights appointed by the United Nations, said Saturday that U.S.-led forces were arresting people "without any legal process ... detaining them, mistreating them and possibly even torturing them."

Annan's son investigated

NEW YORK — Investigators probing alleged corruption at the United Nations oil-for-food program are scrutinizing thousands of pages of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan's documents, including e-mail and phone records, to determine whether he exerted influence in securing a contract for a Swiss company that employed his son.

Paul Volcker, the head of the independent investigation, confirmed the document search and told The Associated Press that new information had led investigators to delay publishing their findings about Annan's son Koko, whose activities have embroiled the U.N. chief in the growing scandal.

Iraq: Not a U.S. clone

WASHINGTON — Vice President Dick Cheney on Sunday brushed off concern that Islam will be the guiding principle of Iraq's new government, saying the country has the right to shape its own democracy without becoming "an Iraqi version of America."

"They will do it their way," Cheney said. "They will do it in accordance with their culture and their history and their beliefs and whatever role they decide they want to have in religion in their society. And that's as it should be."

From The Associated Press

Yokota Baptist Church

日本語もあります YBC services are interpreted in Japanese

Pastor Warren Webster

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| Evening Service | 1800 | |
| Monday | | |
| Path Bible Institute | 1830 | |
| Tuesday | | |
| Soul Winning & Visitation | 1830 | |
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At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

IN THE WORLD

Israel eases stance on freeing Palestinians

Fatah announces willingness to promote cease-fire

BY JOSEF FEDERMAN

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel on Sunday backed off its long-standing refusal to release Palestinian prisoners accused of violence against Israelis, defusing a crisis that threatened to derail an upcoming Mideast summit.

The easing in the Israeli position came as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrived in the region for separate talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, in part to review the agenda for the summit.

Meanwhile, the mainstream Fatah movement declared Sunday that it would be prepared for a cease-fire with Israel.

Fatah, headed by new Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, declared that it was prepared "to be committed to comprehensive mutual cease fire in the occupied Palestinian land of 1967," referring to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Also, the statement said it served to confirm an earlier vow "not to target civilians in Israel by any means."

Palestinians hope for such a mutual declaration when Abbas meets Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at the summit in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on Tuesday.

The summit would be the first at that level in four years — a clear sign that tension and violence are dropping since Abbas succeeded the late Yasser Arafat last month.

Abbas has made the fate of Palestinian prisoners a top priority, and a large-scale release would boost his efforts to end the Palestinian uprising.

Rice said she would push for progress from both sides. "This is a hopeful time, but it is a time also of great responsibility for all of us to make certain that we act

on the words that we speak," she said before meeting Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Last week, Israeli leaders approved the release of 900 prisoners, none involved in violence, in a gesture ahead of the summit. Palestinian officials complained that the planned gesture did not go far enough, and the dispute overshadowed summit preparations.

Later Saturday, top aides of Sharon and Abbas agreed to form a committee to study additional releases, including of prisoners involved in attacks. Negotiators also made final an arrangement of conditional amnesty for Palestinian fugitives, they said.

The fate of Palestinian prisoners is one of the most emotionally charged issues for the Palestinians. Israel holds more than 7,000 Palestinian prisoners, many of them arrested during the last four years of violence. In decades



Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon shakes hands Sunday with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice during a meeting in Jerusalem, ahead of Palestinian-Israeli talks in Egypt on Tuesday.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE/AP

of conflict, many thousands of Palestinians have spent time in Israeli custody.

Issa Karaka, head of the Palestinian Prisoners' Club, a group that lobbies for prisoners' rights, said at least 4,000 of these prisoners are serving life sentences for acts of violence. Thousands more face similar charges but have not yet been tried, he said.

He said it would be essential for Israel to change its criteria for releasing the prisoners. "In every war, people are arrested who

have blood on their hands. And at the end, they are released," Karaka said.

Hisham Abdel Razek, Palestinian Cabinet minister in charge of prisoner issues, said that if Israel does not ease its criteria, it could hurt Abbas. "It will not allow him to succeed in the Palestinian street," he told Israel Army Radio.

Palestinian officials are pushing for the immediate release of some 400 prisoners convicted before 1993, when Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed an interim peace accord.

Residents pass near two U.N. armored vehicles in Cite-Soleil, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Friday.

Sunday marked the first anniversary of the armed rebellion that led to the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

AP



Insecurity, poverty still bedevil Haiti

BY PETER PRENGAMMAN

The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Haiti's normally raucous carnival became an afterthought this time last year as gangsters joined by ex-soldiers sparked a deadly march that led to the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

As the international community agonized over whether to intervene, fighting and looting destroyed an already weak infrastructure, prompting those who could to flee. Today, an interim government installed under the watch of a U.S. led-multinational force has called elections late this year, and 7,400 U.N. troops who replaced the Americans patrol the country.

"Last February, we were in a period of people burning down stores," said David Bazile, secretary of public security. "Today, we are talking about carnival."

But the way people are talking about it lends insight into a security situation that some fear could bring civil war. "People are even more scared to attend than last year," said Guy Alcendor, 48, painting a wooden stand for the pre-Lenten feast beginning Sunday, the anniversary of the rebellion that began in northwest Gonaves city.

The men who forced out Haiti's first democratically elected president remain armed and powerful. They may yet get their demand for the restoration of an army blamed for coups and the slayings and maimings of thousands of people before Aristide disbanded it in 1995. But they were not celebrating.

"We can't celebrate when we have so much work left to do," said rebel leader Remissaintine Ravix. "Aristide has left, but we still have many problems."

Since Aristide supporters intensified protests in September to demand his return from exile in South Africa, shootings involving street gangs, police, U.N. peacekeepers and protesters have killed more than 250 people. Pro-Aristide gangs still control slums housing some of the hundreds of thousands who reject the interim government of Prime Minister Germaine Latorje, a technocrat who spent years in exile in Florida, as does the 14-nation Caribbean Community.

The community wants an international probe into Aristide's charges that the United States helped oust U.S. officials say they did not help Aristide keep power because he was profiting from a brisk business in cocaine smuggling — charges Aristide denies. With scores of officials and supporters of Aristide's Lavalas Family party in overcrowded jails, Latorje denies his government is conducting a witch hunt. "They are not in jail because of being Lavalas members or supporters ... (but) because they broke the law," police spokeswoman Gessy Caucou said.

In July, several countries and international institutions promised Haiti more than \$1 billion, but only about \$200 million has been disbursed.

Philippe Arnaud, president of the American Chamber of Commerce of Haiti, was hopeful about opening a Florida chapter next month to help exiles start businesses in their homeland.

"There is a better business climate now," he said, "a sense we're moving toward elections and will finally put the country back on its feet."

Ordinary Haitians disagree. "Either there had been no change since Aristide left, or things are worse," said Car Monique, a 35-year-old mother of five who sells mushrooms. "It seems like even more people are without jobs now."

Pope gives blessing from hospital

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II appeared at his hospital window Sunday, frail and speaking with difficulty but determined to show he can still lead the Roman Catholic Church.

The 10-minute appearance at an open window gave the public his first glimpse of the 84-year-old pontiff since his hospitalization, which reminded questions about his ability to carry on.

He looked rested and alert, and a message read for him by an Argentine archbishop standing beside him seemed to respond to any doubts raised. "... In this hospital, in the middle of other sick people to whom my affectionate thoughts go on, I can continue to serve the church and the entire humanity," the message said.

The pope, who has Parkinson's disease and hip and knee ailments, was rushed to Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic last Tuesday with breathing trouble brought on by the flu. The Vatican has said he is steadily improving and that the next medical bulletin would be issued Monday.

Togo's president dies; son named new leader

LOME, Togo — The African Union accused military commanders in Togo of taking advantage of the death of the country's longtime leader to stage a coup and raised the possibility Sunday that its 53 members will not recognize the West African nation's new government.

President Gnassingbe Eyadema, 69, led his tiny impoverished nation for 38 years, making him the world's longest-serving ruler after Cuba's Fidel Castro.

Eyadema died Saturday after suffering a heart attack. Hours later, Togo's military high command declared his 39-year-old son, Faure Gnassingbe, the new president. According to Togo's constitution, the speaker of parliament, Faure Gnassingbe Natchaba, should have succeeded the president, with the obligation to call elections within 60 days. The military said the lawmaker was out of the country, and it acted to avoid a power vacuum.

Clerics said to reform extremists via Internet

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi clerics succeeded in reforming the ideas of more than 250 extremists through a dialogue on the Internet, the Islamic Affairs Minister said Sunday at an anti-terrorism conference attended by hundreds of security officials from across the globe.

Sheik Saleh al-Sheikh said the Saudi government uses clerics, mosques, books, publications, tapes — and now the Internet — to prevent young people from joining Muslim extremists.

Al-Sheikh said his office had communicated with more than 800 people on Web sites and had converted over 250 with "terrorist thoughts" who "admitted their mistakes."

Seven African countries sign rain forest treaty

BRAZZAVILLE, Republic of Congo — Leaders of seven Central African countries signed a landmark treaty on Saturday to work together to help save the world's second-largest rain forest.

The forests make up the heart of Africa, encompassing 500 million acres stretching through 10 countries. They are home to more than half Africa's animal species, including the world's entire population of lowland gorillas. Nearly 20 million people depend on the forests for food and shelter.

From The Associated Press



The Rei Momo, or Carnival King, Marcelo Reis greets people on the streets of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Friday. The event officially opens Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Despite rain, a large crowd attended.

Rain doesn't hurt carnival

BY MICHAEL ASTOR
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Even the pouring rain couldn't put a damper on this country's famed carnival as tens of thousands of revelers took to the streets Saturday, dancing to the sound of samba drums on the second day of the annual celebration.

Samba rhythms rose above the sound of intermittent rain showers, and many people wielded umbrellas as they fell in behind the "bloco" — as the informal street carnival groups are known.

The Banda de Ipanema attracted more than 10,000 people and snarled traffic in the city's famous beach district.

"The energy is incredible, ev-

eryone comes together, rich and poor, that's what is so nice," said Chris O'Connell, a 23-year-old musician from New York who was visiting Rio for carnival.

The party got started early. Some 40,000 revelers had filled the city's main avenue by mid-morning, many dressed in white with black spots in tribute to a traditional brass band known as the Black Ball Band.

The crowd turned out despite the threat of rain to celebrate the band — *Cordão de Bola Preta* in Portuguese — which has played at the world's most famous carnival since 1918. One of the last of its kind, the band prides itself on providing an accessible alternative to more formal carnival events.

The samba parade in the specially designed sambadrome stadium is the centerpiece of Rio's carnival celebrations, which began Friday and will run until the wee hours of Ash Wednesday. The high point comes Sunday and Monday nights when the city's 14 premiere samba groups mount parades that cost more than \$1 million to produce.

The groups parade with thousands of elaborately costumed dancers, hundreds of drummers and a slew of elaborate floats. The spectacle is televised live across the nation.

Some 770,000 tourists are expected in the city for the pre-Lent carnival, with about 20 percent coming from abroad, according to the Rio de Janeiro tourist board.

Bob Marley bash brings thousands to Ethiopia

BY DAGNACHEW TEKLU
The Associated Press

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — Thousands of Ethiopians and Rastafarians were jamming on a hot Sunday in the capital's main square as Ethiopia threw a birthday bash for the late reggae star Bob Marley, in what is billed as the country's largest concert.

It is part of monthlong celebrations of the 60th anniversary of Marley's birth. He died in 1981. This is first time the event was held outside the singer's native Jamaica and is organized by the Bob Marley Foundation, the U.N. children's agency, the African Union and others.

A priest from the Ethiopian Orthodox Church blessed the event and then first on stage was Burundi's Royal Drummers.

Many of those in Meskel Square for Sunday's concert wore T-shirts emblazoned with portraits of Bob Marley. Others wore hand-bands, jewelry and T-shirts decorated with the Ethiopian national flag and Rastafarian colors of green, yellow and red.

Organizers said they expected as many as 300,000 people to attend the free event, which is dubbed "Africa Unite" after one of Marley's many famous songs.

"I think it is incredible that so many years after brother Bob's death, he still inspires such an amazing show," said Yohannes, a Rastafarian, who goes by a single name.

Marley's five sons, widow and former backup singers were expected to perform along with Benin music star Angélique Kidjo, Senegal's Youssou N'Dour and Baaba Maal. Well-known Ethiopians artists also were set to perform.

Ethiopia's evangelical churches on Saturday objected to the celebrations, saying that Rastafarians are wrong to consider Ethiopia's last emperor a living god and they would expose Ethiopian youth to marijuana.

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church, the country's main church, has, however, supported the celebration.

Some Rastafarians smoke marijuana as a sacrament, but others object to its use. Most Rastafarians preach a oneness with nature and grow their hair into long matted strands called dreadlocks.

Meskel Square, which has been undergoing a facelift over the past month with new lights and streetlights, was flitting with Ethiopian, Jamaican and other countries' flags.

"This is a big day for Bob," said Bissew Tedesse, an Ethiopian businessman out for a morning walk with his wife. "I like the Jamaicans," he said, using a common Ethiopian term for the country's small Rastafarian community. "And I love Bob. He is Ethiopia's elder son."

Sister Betty, a Rastafarian who works for the International Organization for Migration in Addis Ababa, said that she was proud the concert was happening in the city.

"I just can't explain how much I love Bob, for everything, for whatever he is. I have much respect for his philosophy and message as a Rastafarian," she said. "His songs are all about 'Africa Unite' ... if there is no unity there will not be peace in Africa. Bob is a messenger, a spiritual messenger to many people."

The concert was broadcast live on Ethiopian television.

Chinese hit railway by millions for Lunar New Year

BY ALEXA OLESEN
The Associated Press

BEIJING — They swamp the rails every year — millions of travelers who brave crowds, germs, pickpockets and standing for hours on jamming trains to make it home for China's biggest family holiday.

The government says Chinese will make 1.97 billion trips during the 40-day travel period around Lunar New Year, which begins Wednesday. The railways are carrying 4 million people a day.

But to get home, most seem ready to put up with the hardships.

"I am going to see my wife, my kids, my parents," said Chen Ganshun, a 35-year-old construction worker. Chen was waiting at Beijing's West Train Station for a train to Sichuan province, 600 miles to the southwest. Like many of China's millions of migrant workers, he hasn't been home since this time last year.

Around Chen in the hulking, hangar-like station, other travelers bustled past, hurrying from ticket counters to souvenir shops to train platforms, their breath white in the cold air.

Massive speakers blared out tinny warnings: "Travelers, when standing in line, don't push. And be mindful of your belongings, especially your mobile phones and wallets."

"You do have to be careful," said Chen, bundled up against the cold in a flannel



A young girl waits beside a ticket queue while her mother lines up to buy train tickets at Beijing Railway Station on Friday. China has entered its annual peak travel season as millions return to their hometowns to celebrate the Lunar New Year, which falls on Feb. 9.

shirt, four sweaters and a sport coat. His trip will be long, but Chen is lucky. He's with friends and he has a seat.

Thousands of others were forced to buy standing tickets.

Jiang Feng, 36, a clothing shop owner from the southern coastal city of Wenzhou, said he did it for a 30-hour journey after he couldn't get a plane ticket or even a seat on a train.

"I am getting prepared by sitting here," Jiang said, smoking a cigarette on a rigid concrete bench.

Others are preparing to protect their health. This year's travel season comes after a meningitis outbreak that killed at least 17 people and sickened 258. The government declared the outbreak under control last week but ordered extra sanitation for trains, buses and other vehicles.

Meningitis is an infection of the fluid in the spinal cord or around the brain. It spreads through contact with an ill person's respiratory or throat secretions.

A 20-year-old college student waiting at the Beijing West Station wore a cotton face mask decorated with cartoon kittens. "I am wearing it because of the cold and I am concerned about germs, getting sick," said the woman from the western province of Shaanxi, who would give only her surname, Zhang.

China's crowded trains — littered with pumpkin seed husks, cigarette butts, used tissues and where many people spit in aisles — are an ideal breeding ground for contagious diseases.

Announcements at the train station also warned travelers against falling prey to scammers or China's thriving trade in fake tickets.

But the government also cashes in on the holiday travel, raising ticket prices for airplanes, trains and other transportation by up to 40 percent.



Donald Rumsfeld

Rumsfeld not sure of Iraqi troop readiness

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Sunday he does not know when the United States will have trained enough Iraqis so they can adequately secure the country and replace American troops now helping provide protection.

"It's interesting to me that some people think they know that because it's not knowable," Rumsfeld said.

The training of Iraqi security forces is one of the factors influencing the continued presence of American troops, which grew by 15,000 to 150,000 ahead of the Jan. 30 elections in Iraq.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has told Congress that only about one-third of Iraq's 136,000 trained security forces are capable of engaging combat with insurgents across the country.

Rumsfeld said Sunday there are too many unknown factors to be able to say when Iraqis will be able to handle internal security.

Citing two of Iraq's neighbors, Iran and Syria, Rumsfeld said, "We don't know the extent to which they're going to be unhelpful or helpful" in enabling Iraq to overcome the insurgency.

Also uncertain, Rumsfeld said, is the extent to which "the political process is going to tip people away from supporting insurgency or being on the fence to supporting the government."

Further necessary to undermining the insurgency is cutting off its financial support, which comes from Saddam Hussein's loyalists and others, the secretary said.

"What you need to do is have the economic progress, the political progress which is going forward in such good style. And that will determine the level of the insurgency," Rumsfeld said.

"And the level of the insurgency will determine the speed at which Iraqi security forces will be capable of managing that level of insurgency."

He acknowledged there were are lot of "ifs," but added, "That's life."

'06 budget is Bush's most austere

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's \$2.5 trillion budget is shaping up as his most austere, trying to restrain spending across a wide swath of government from popular farm subsidies to poor people's health programs.

Vice President Dick Cheney on Sunday defended the plan against Democratic criticism that Bush had to seek steep cuts in scores of federal programs because he is unwilling to roll back first-term tax cuts that opponents contend primarily benefited the wealthy.

The budget's submission to Congress on Monday will set off months of intense debate. Lawmakers from both parties can be expected to vigorously fight to protect their favorite programs.

"This is the tightest budget that has been submitted since we got here," Cheney told "Fox News Sunday."

"It is a fair, reasonable, responsible, serious piece of effort. It's not something we have done with a meat ax, nor are we suddenly turning our backs on the most needy people in our society."

The president, who campaigned for re-election on a pledge to cut the deficit in half by 2009, is targeting 150 government programs for either outright elimination or sharp cutbacks.

Bush will propose spending \$2.5 trillion in the budget year that begins Oct. 1. For the current year, he is estimating the budget deficit will reach a record \$427 billion.

The five-year projections in the budget will show the deficit declining to about \$230 billion.

Those projections do not take into account



Vice President Dick Cheney waves to reporters after an interview Sunday with Fox News in Washington.

some big-ticket items such as the military costs incurred in Iraq and Afghanistan, the price of making Bush's first term tax cuts permanent, or the transition costs for his No. 1 domestic priority, overhauling Social Security, the government pension program.

Sen. Kent Conrad, the top Democrat on the Senate Budget Committee, said Bush's budget "talks about the next five years of reducing deficits, but what that hides is what happens after that five-year window. The cost of everything he advocates explodes."

Republican Sen. John McCain praised the administration's willingness to tackle the deficit. "I'm glad the president is coming over with a very austere budget. I hope we in Congress will have the courage to support it," he told ABC's "This Week."

Joshua Bolten, Bush's budget director, told The Associated Press that when the budget is released, the administration will provide some estimates of the cost in increased government borrowing for the president's proposal to allow younger workers to set up private savings accounts.

But he said the administration cannot provide total cost figures for the Social Security overhaul because all the elements of the plan have yet to be decided upon.

Bush's budget will restrain the growth in discretionary programs to less than 2.5 percent. But because defense and homeland security are set for increases above that amount, the rest of government programs will see outright cuts or tiny gains far below the rate of inflation.

One of the biggest battles is certain to occur in the area of payments and other assistance to farmers, which the administration wants to trim by \$587 million. Those payments go to farmers growing a wide range of crops from cotton, rice and corn to soybeans and wheat.

The United States and other rich countries have come under criticism for these agriculture subsidies from poor countries. In the current round of global trade talks, these nations are pressing for the subsidies' elimination.

The administration also will seek to restrain growth in mandatory spending, primarily by trimming costs in Medicaid, the joint program with states that pays the cost of poor people's health care.

Spending on the military, the biggest part of discretionary spending, is on target to rise by 4.5 percent in 2006 to \$410 billion. This figure does not include the \$480 billion the administration has said it soon will seek to pay for the costs of continued military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

FBI works to expand domestic intelligence

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The FBI is dramatically expanding its intelligence role in the United States and is seeking control over the CIA's domestic activities, according to current and former intelligence officials.

At stake is control over a pool of U.S.-based intelligence assets and information that has been invaluable in the past to understanding the intentions of foreign nations and groups.

FBI director Robert S. Mueller III is pushing to rewrite the rules under which the CIA and FBI have operated domestically for decades and to assert what he views as the FBI's proper authority over all domestic intelligence gathering as part of a vast, but slowing, restructuring of the bureau to focus on counterterrorism.

For decades, the CIA has been allowed under U.S. law to recruit foreign officials, business executives and students living in or visiting the United States to spy for the agency when they leave.

Under an executive order signed in 1981, the CIA is prohibited from spying on or conducting operations against U.S. citizens in the United States.

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SAG awards pave road to Oscars

Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD — Jamie Foxx was named best lead male movie actor for his portrayal of the late R&B legend Ray Charles in "Ray," and Hilary Swank won best female lead actor for playing a scrappy boxer in "Million Dollar Baby" Saturday night at the 11th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards.

The cast prize for best movie ensemble went to the road-trip comedy "Sideways."

Oscar nominee Cate Blanchett received the award for best female actor in a supporting role for her portrayal of Katharine

Hepburn in "The Aviator." Morgan Freeman also received best male actor in a supporting role as a grizzled boxing veteran in "Million Dollar Baby."

In the television categories, the late Jerry Orbach, who died in December of prostate cancer, won best male actor in a drama series for NBC's "Law and Order." Jennifer Garner won in the female category as the sexy spy in ABC's "Alias."

"CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" received the dramatic ensemble award for the entire cast.

Glenn Close was named best female actor

in a TV movie or miniseries for her role of Eleanor of Aquitaine in Showtime's "The Lion in Winter." Geoffrey Rush was named best male TV actor for his portrayal of the late comic legend Peter Sellers in HBO's "The Life and Death of Peter Sellers."

Tori Hatcher won best female actor in a comedy series for ABC's hit "Desperate Housewives" and Tony Shalhoub received his second SAG award in a row for USA's "Monk."

James Garner, a nominee for best supporting actor for the romantic drama "The Notebook," received the guild's lifetime achievement award.



Jamie Foxx won a Screen Actors Guild award for his performance in "Ray."

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Cheney won't run in '08

WASHINGTON — Dick Cheney says he won't be running for anything after finishing his term as vice president, except maybe to the river with his grandchildren.

"I've got my plans laid out," Cheney said Sunday. "I'm going to serve this president for the next four years and then I'm out of here."

Cheney said he made it clear when he became President Bush's running mate that he would never run for president and nothing could change his mind.

"Not only no, but hell no," Cheney told "Fox News Sunday." He quoted Civil War Gen. William Sherman, who answered similar queries in 1864 by saying, "If nominated, I will not run. If elected, I will not serve."

Feds drop CIA probe

FEDERAL prosecutors have decided not to seek criminal charges against CIA officers who were part of an anti-drug operation that was involved in the downing of a mission plane in Peru and the deaths of two Americans in 2001.

Justice Department officials have until now not even acknowledged that they were investigating potential misconduct by the intelligence officers, including whether they lied to lawmakers who were looking into the incident and the interdiction program. But on Saturday, Justice Department spokesman Bryan Siera said, "We declined a criminal prosecution earlier this week."

Mom charged in deaths

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — The mother of three children found dead in a Huntsville apartment has confessed to starving her children, police said Saturday.

Nathash Yvonne Ward, 33, was charged with capital murder Friday in connection with the deaths of her son and two daughters. She was being held without bail.

Officers found the bodies of Shanika Y. Ward, 11; Latricia Ward, 9; and Christopher O. Ward, 8, on the floor in three bedrooms Friday, police spokesman Wendell Johnson said.

Officials said the children had been dead for at least several days. When the children were found, "they did appear malnourished," Johnson said.

From The Associated Press

DEFENSE BUDGET PROPOSAL 2006

Carrier to be cut Navy budget plan

BY JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Navy will cut one of its 12 aircraft carriers, jettison more than 13,000 sailors from its active rolls and slow down the purchase of new ships and aircraft, according to the Navy's portion of the 2006 defense budget proposal.

The good news, say service officials, is that with the extra \$6.4 billion they're getting over the \$119 billion approved last year, they'll be able to provide new special pay and bonus money, more housing allowances, stipends for living overseas as well as increases to fleet maintenance and training.

The proposal calls for increasing sailors' base pay by 3.1 percent and civilian salaries by 2.3 percent.

Officials refused to announce which of the Navy's 12 carriers would be cut. The Mayport, Fla.-based USS John F. Kennedy and Japan-based USS Kitty Hawk are the fleet's two oldest carriers and only remaining conventionally powered big decks.

Kitty Hawk, however, is already slated for decommissioning in 2016, the same year the next nuclear-powered carrier —

the George H.W. Bush — comes online, leaving Kennedy as the most likely option.

Still, cautioned the officials, amid reporter speculation, "some of our oldest carriers are not in the worst material condition."

One official also hinted at a shakeup in homeports for the carrier fleet.

"Certainly there is concern at the Department of the Navy on having all of our carriers at one port," the Navy official said, referring to the fleet concentrations in San Diego and Norfolk, Va. He said an environ-



THE USS John F. Kennedy is rumored to be the aircraft carrier the Navy plans to cut out of its fleet of 12.

COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/SHNS

ing will remain.

The long-term savings of cutting a carrier will be about \$300 million per year, much of that coming from personnel savings, he said.

Those cuts will be part of the 13,200 sailors the plan would drop from active duty

mental study had been earmarked in this budget to look at basing a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in Mayport," he said.

"That's certainly a consideration," he said.

Whichever carrier is cut, its corresponding air-

next year. The official said the service would save \$404 million this year — and \$1 billion a year after that — by cutting its active duty rolls from 365,000 to 352,700 next year.

While the Navy will be shrinking, that does not mean sailors should expect more time underway, he said.

"I don't think any of this means more sea time," the official said.

The Navy will add 23 new jets and helicopters to the fleet next year under the budget request as well as three surface combatants and two logistics ships. It will lose, however, a planned attack submarine, and the purchase of a slew of new ships and aircraft will be slowed down in the coming years.

In all, the fleet will go from 285 ships to 289 ships next year, if the budget is approved, but slowly increase to a planned 305 ships by 2011.

The Navy's purchase of its new F/A-18E/F Super Hornet, which is set to replace four types of aircraft on the flight deck, stays on course with another 38 strike fighters entering the fleet next year, plus another four of its radar-jamming variant.

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Fewer Raptors, airmen for AF

BY LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force would see more money and fewer airmen under the Defense Department's 2006 budget proposal.

The 6 percent increase Pentagon officials have asked for is based on a reduction of about 2,300 active-duty airmen and another 2,100 drop in reservist numbers. Service officials estimate about 3,800 of these posts will be filled by civilian employees instead.

That change is part of ongoing efforts by the force to "remove the military from nonmilitary jobs." Also, all airmen would receive a 3.1 percent base pay increase over civilian Air Force employees would see only a 2.3 percent bump in their salary.

The proposed \$102.5 billion budget was handed to reporters Friday by senior Air Force officials. Overall spending would be increased by \$6.9 billion, up more than 6 percent from FY 2005. But officials blamed nearly \$800 million of that on increased fuel prices, and another \$2.1 billion on inflationary costs.

The budget includes plans for the service to build and renovate more than 7,200 housing units next year.

However, the fate of major weapons systems, including the F/A-22 Raptor and C-130 Hercules, has been put on hold. Production of the highly coveted F/A-22 was kept flat in the budget, and plans to buy more C-130J



LOCKHEED MARTIN/AF

The Air Force's highly coveted F/A-22 Raptor continues to face a steep climb for funding.

cargo planes in 2006 were canceled.

Senior Air Force officials say decisions on long-term productions of those and other systems would not be answered until after a pair of force readiness studies — the quadrennial defense review and the Pentagon's mobility and capability study — are finished later this year.

And while the F/A-22 funding will actually decrease by about \$300 million under the plan, Force officials made it clear they hope force strength studies will support increasing production of the stealth fighter, which they see as the long-term replacement for the force's aging fighter force.

As recently as two years ago, service officials said they needed 381 of the aircraft, but current budget plans would pay for only 179 of them over the next decade.

Air Force researchers will take over research and development of unmanned combat planes in 2006, and \$350 million is proposed to pay for that work.

The budget proposal also calls for \$226 million for creation of a unified space radar system for the entire U.S. intelligence community. In the last two years about \$240 million has been spent on the system, which is scheduled to be operational in 2015.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@stripes.osd.mil

USMC planned purchases rolled back

BY JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Marines will soon find themselves manning two new infantry battalions, three Light Armored Reconnaissance Companies and several new support units being added to the active forces.

But the service will have to wait longer for the fielding of the new V-22 tilt-rotor Osprey and amphibious Expeditionary Assault Vehicle, according to the Defense Department's 2006 budget request.

In all, the White House hopes to put \$17.5 billion into the Corps' coffers next year.

The proposal calls for increasing Marines' base pay by 3.1 percent and civilian salaries by 2.3 percent.

Manpower for the new units will come from job conversions that put civilians into positions that some 2,500 Marines had been filling, according to a senior Pentagon official who briefed reporters Friday.

Meanwhile, an additional 3,000 Marines will be temporarily added to the Corps' active strength of 175,000 in a separate "supplemental" budget request expected to go to Congress later this month. Cash for new bonus money is also expected to be part of the Corps' portion of the supplemental.

The Corps is projecting it will buy 1,310 new Humvees and 77 of its 150 mm Howitzers as part of its \$1.4 billion procurement budget proposal for 2006.

The Marines will cut the purchase of the still-developmental V-22 tilt-rotor "Osprey" next year from 15 to nine. In 2007, purchases will be cut in half from 29 to 14. In all, over the next four years, plans now call for the Corps to buy a total of 72 Ospreys instead of the 107 that had been planned.



The Expeditionary Assault Vehicle, slated to begin replacing the Corps' aging fleet of amphibious armored vehicles this year, now

According to the 2006 defense budget proposal, the Marine Corps will cut the purchase of its V-22 tilt-rotor Osprey next year from 15 to nine.

VERNON PUGH
Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

won't begin hitting units until 2007, according to service officials.

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DEFENSE BUDGET PROPOSAL 2006

The Army is budgeting \$224 million for 360 up-armored Humvees and 1,705 heavy chassis Humvees in 2006.



R.J. ORIEZ
Courtesy of
Stars and Stripes

Army prioritizes vehicles

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Army largely will stand fast while Defense Department reviews take place in 2005, but one area they will attack is force protection.

The Army is budgeting \$1,025 billion for "mobility assets," a senior Army budget official said Friday, including \$451.5 million for 3,196 tactical medium vehicles and \$224 million for 360 up-armored Humvees and 1,705 heavy chassis Humvees.

The Army budget also includes \$875 million to buy 240 Stryker tactical wheeled vehicles, enough to outfit the Army's sixth Stryker Brigade.

However, the Army is not planning to buy any additional tanks in fiscal 2006, although \$443 million has been set aside to buy 399 new engines for the M1 Abrams tank.

Many more weapons and vehicles will be purchased with supplemental funds, including more armored Humvees and kits to add



TOM BRADBURY/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

The Army's proposed budget for 2006 includes \$875 million to buy 240 Stryker tactical wheeled vehicles, enough to outfit the Army's sixth Stryker Brigade.

armor to vehicles already in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Although basically flat at \$11.8 billion compared with \$10.4 bil-

lion in 2005, the Army's procurement budget request includes program increases for several programs, with an emphasis on

Bush administration planning supplemental war budget for '06

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Bush administration is taking the same approach to defense spending in fiscal 2006 it began with the 2004 budget: presenting a "baseline" request to Congress that is only slightly different from the previous year, but adding billions more with a supplemental request to cover operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Congressional Democrats have been critical of the Bush administration's ongoing use of supplementals to fund the war, saying the requests make it easier for defense officials to avoid congressional oversight of war spending and play a shell game with defense spending.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, Congress has approved \$203 billion in supplemental requests. If the latest request is approved, that goes up to \$280 billion.

But defense officials defend the practice, saying that the security situation in Iraq, especially, is so unpredictable that using the regular budget to fund the operation would be too restrictive.

Because supplemental requests are put together much more quickly than regular budgets, defense officials say they have more flexibility to move and add money as conditions on the ground change.

"We are bearing, clearly, the heavy burden in this war," a senior Army budget official said Friday. "The base budget would not allow us to mobilize our forces."

"We can be more accurate in our estimates," another official added. "It's not hiding anything."

Some analysts disagree. "The war is not a surprise anymore," said Steve Kosiak, a top analyst for the Center for Strategic and

Budgetary Assessment in Washington. "We know we're going to be there. Not [budgeting] for war costs is really inexcusable at this point."

"This administration came into office saying they would not play all these games with supplementals, but they've crossed the line, I'd say," he said.

The supplemental request will pay for all the costs associated with Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, including the salaries of an additional 18,000 active-duty soldiers who are now on the payroll; the cost of refurbishing equipment lost or worn out in Iraq and Afghanistan; the ammunition expended by U.S. troops in those countries; and equipping, housing, feeding and entertaining deployed troops.

But the supplemental also will pay for more than just direct war costs. Army officials are counting on receiving \$5 billion in the upcoming request to create and equip three new combat brigade teams — the service's new self-sufficient, lighter, high-tech "transformational" unit with about 4,000 soldiers.

Paying for the three new brigade combat teams in the supplemental is kosher, an Army official said, even though the units will be a permanent part of the Army, not just something cobbled together in response to the Iraq or Afghanistan operations.

"These are forces we are deploying to the battle space," the official said. When Army units return from Iraq rotations, "we are resetting them [as BCTs] to go right back into the war."

— Lisa Burgess

"force protection systems," the official said.

That means the service plans to buy more radios, small arms and crew-served weapons to outfit combat support units, which in the past typically have been short of these assets.

The Army also has asked for \$1.7 billion to buy training and reserve ammunition, with an emphasis on rounds for the M-4 and M-16 rifles and M-9 pistols carried by the entire force.

The Army is the only service whose fiscal 2006 budget line is flat compared with 2005, but it doesn't matter, officials said: the Army will get "the lion's share" of a \$75 billion supplemental request for Iraq and Afghanistan that the Bush administration expects to seek from Congress later this week.

Army officials said they are not permitted to discuss the supplemental in detail until the Defense Department releases the entire request.

The Army budget request for fiscal 2006 is \$98.6 billion. Congress allocated the service \$98.9 billion for fiscal 2005.

"Basically the budget just sustains the level we're at," the official said, funding 482,400 soldiers in the active Army, 205,000 troops in the Army Reserves, and 350,000 troops in the Army National Guard.

The new budget request includes a 3.1 percent, across-the-board raise for active-duty soldiers, which will cost taxpayers \$696 million per year, as well as a 2.3 percent raise for Army civilians.

In the past, the Army has asked for raises calculated on rank and time in service. In 2006, however, "the sensing is that we have relieved a lot of the [inequalities] in the pay tables, so there's no need for targeted pay raises," the official said.

The basic allowance for housing, meanwhile, will go up by 4 percent, to accommodate cost of living increases. The Army eliminated out-of-pocket housing costs in fiscal 2005, and the 2006 request will continue that policy.

Other personnel programs, such as health care, education and other quality of life efforts, will be funded at their 2005 levels.

None of the funding for personnel programs will be cut.

The Army's family housing budget request is \$1.4 billion in 2006, compared with the \$1.6 billion allocated in 2005. The decrease does not reflect direct cuts to family housing, however. Since 2000, the Army has been shifting the costs of operating much of its housing to the private sector, so the service's family housing costs continue to drop.

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FACES

Marsalis shuns pop culture

Former 'Tonight Show' player yearns for authenticity in music

BY CHARLES J. GANS
The Associated Press

Branford Marsalis has no regrets about casting aside what many would see as the trappings of a successful musical career — the gigs as bandleader-sidekick on "The Tonight Show" and musical director of Sting's post-Police band, even a contract with a major record label.

He has plugged his ears to the siren call of pop stardom, and shuns the spotlight of the fast-paced L.A. and New York scenes. "I learned a lot about American pop culture and the entertainment business," said Marsalis, describing the lessons gained from his "Tonight" show experience from 1992 to '95.

"What makes entertainment work for everybody is a certain embracing of the blatant superficiality of it, and that's just something that I wasn't able to do. ... It was the revelation I needed to realize that I'm not an entertainer, I'm an artist."

Today, the 44-year-old Marsalis is living his life and defining success on his own terms. In 2002, he started his own record label, Marsalis Music, and moved his family from the New York City suburbs to Durham, N.C., where he was able to purchase a house large enough to accommodate a basement recording studio. Marsalis, a New Orleans native, said he preferred returning to his Southern roots to raise his family.

"My son had turned 15 and I just felt at the time that he needed to be in an environment where there's less of an overt embrace of materialism ... and that tremendous sense of entitlement," said Marsalis. "In New York, the second or third question when you meet someone is 'What do you do?' ... Most people in Durham don't know what I do or who I am, and that's great."

Marsalis mostly performs these days with his quartet at jazz clubs, festivals and college campuses. He occasionally appears with symphony orchestras to perform a classical repertoire. His current quartet with pianist Joey Calderazzo, bassist Eric Revis, and drummer Jeff "Tain" Watts, whose links with Marsalis go back to the late '70s at Boston's Berklee College of Music — has been together for nearly six years.

Marsalis' quartet had built a reputation for its muscular high-intensity playing on "burnout" uptempo numbers. But the group shows a more sensitive side on its first all-ballads album, "Eternal," which has been nominated for a Grammy as best jazz instrumental album. The saxophonist previously won three Grammys in jazz and pop categories.

The album's seven tracks, with Marsalis switching between tenor and soprano saxophones, include three somewhat obscure covers — "The Ruby and the Pearl," done in a sultry semi-bolero style, which Nat King Cole and later Wayne Shorter recorded; "Dinner for One Please, James," which acknowledges the influence of tenor legend Ben Webster's lyrical and breathy romanticism; and "Gloomy Sunday," a mournful song of yearning associated with Billie Holiday.

Each of the quartet's members contributed an original ballad, including Marsalis, whose 17-minute "Eternal" is dedicated to wife Nicole.

"The idea of playing a ballad is basically sacrificing one's personal ambitions for the more unified goal of making the song as beautiful as possible ... and it's hard to get musicians on board with that philosophy in an era where a lot of jazz musicians are rewarded for their amazingly technical virtuosic solos."

Marsalis says the ballads album wouldn't have been possible if the quartet had not tackled John Coltrane's legendary 1964 suite, "A Love Supreme," a deeply spiritual piece which jazz musicians have largely avoided playing, although Wynton Marsalis recently recorded it with his Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. Branford's quartet performed the full suite on Marsalis Music's debut CD, "Footprints of Our Fathers," but gave a more definitive performance on their new DVD "Coltrane's A Love Supreme Live," recorded in 2003 at Amsterdam's Bimhuis Jazz Club.

The DVD, filmed by Emmy-winning director Pierre Lamoureux, captures all the nuances of the performance. It also contains a revealing 30-minute interview between Marsalis and Coltrane's widow, Alice, and an audio-only disc of the 48-minute performance.

"It's kind of a lot of musicians avoid playing 'A Love Supreme' because it's really hard to play and it basically can illuminate your weaknesses in a hurry," said Marsalis. "It forced us to deal with our own insecurities and how we wanted the group to sound. ... I have good stamina, but playing that piece with that kind of intensity for 45 minutes was really exhausting. ... The concentration that is required is just staggering."

Calderazzo, who released his first solo piano recording, "Haiku," on Marsalis Music, says Marsalis has helped him become a more complete musician. Each of the sidemen have their own CDs out and are much in demand, but remain with Marsalis.

"Branford is by far the best bandleader that I've come across," said Calderazzo, who joined the quartet in 1999 after the death of Marsalis' late pianist Kenny Kirkland. "He knows what he wants, his hand to sound like and how to get it ... He's got the best ears out of anybody I've ever worked with."

Marsalis explains his decision to leave Columbia/Sony after nearly



Musician Branford Marsalis performed in January at The Village Vanguard in New York. "I learned a lot about American pop culture and the entertainment business," said Marsalis, describing the lessons gained from his "Tonight Show" experience from 1992-95. Today, the 44-year-old Marsalis finds himself living his life and defining success on his own terms.

20 years as the result of a difference of philosophy. He felt Sony's music division was emphasizing the entertainment value rather than the music.

With his own label, Marsalis wants to give the musicians, including such newcomers as Puerto Rican alto saxophonist Miguel Zenon and the Tennessee-born country-jazz guitarist Doug Wamble, time to nurture their bands and develop their audience, but he doesn't feel it's his job to tell them what to record.

Harry Connick Jr., who describes Marsalis as "one of the most generous people that I've ever known," says he jumped at the chance to do a straight-ahead non-vocals instrumental jazz record, "Other Hours," for the saxophonist's label.

"A lot of the values that I have come from him, and if I had to sum up Branford in one sentence it's: He does what he loves to do," said Connick. "I like watching his creative process and we actually share that. He doesn't like to prepare. I'm a big fan of true improvisation and not really working out things too much and he's also much like that."

"Branford has found his own voice on his instrument, and at this late day in the development of jazz that's pretty amazing ..."

Fashionable first lady

The models including Christie Brinkley, Sheryl Crow, Venus Williams and Paula Abdul, but all eyes were on first lady Laura Bush when she attended The Heart Truth runway show at New York Fashion Week.

Bush wore a deep-red velvet jacket, perfect for the occasion: a charity fashion show called The Red Dress Collection that aimed to raise awareness to heart disease in women.



Bush

Twenty-six designers, including Vera Wang, Zac Posen and Narciso Rodriguez, donated their time and dresses — and celebrities wore them on the catwalk.

Bush is the national ambassador for The Heart Truth Campaign, sponsored by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health.

Rocker charged in fight

Rock singer Pete Doherty, the former frontman of The Libertines, has been charged with robbery and blackmail, police in London said.

The 25-year-old musician was arrested Wednesday after a reported fracas at a London hotel. He appeared at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court Friday. His lawyer, Sean Curran, said the singer would spend the weekend in jail because the \$280,000 bail couldn't be raised immediately.

Another musician, Alan Wass, 23, was charged with the same offenses and was granted bail.

Doherty's spokesman, Tony Linkin, said the singer was arrested over allegations he assaulted filmmaker Max Carlisle, who was making a documentary about Doherty's new group, Babyshambles.

Doherty, who is widely reported to be dating supermodel Kate Moss, was kicked out of The Libertines after failing to curb his publicly acknowledged drug problems.

Sharpton takes on KFC

The Rev. Al Sharpton has joined PETA in calling for a ban of fast-food chain KFC, in a new TV and radio campaign.

Sharpton is urging the black community to join the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals' boycott of the franchise, the animal protection group announced Thursday.

"If KFC wants to take our money and use it to pay for slot machines that hurt animals, I say we send them a message that this is not going to happen," Sharpton says in the ad.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



OPINION

If fear gets nod, it's all over but the shouting

BY JONATHAN CHAIT

A few weeks ago, when former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean declared his intention to run for chairman of the Democratic National Committee, news reports had the general tone of "Get this, that crazy scream guy is back and he wants to run the party." Now, [less than] a week before the vote, his victory is a fair accomplishment. How did this happen? Are Democrats suicidally crazy?

Wait. That's too easy. Let me rephrase the question. Why are Democrats suicidally crazy?

The conventional rap against Dean as DNC chairman is essentially the same as the conventional rap against him as presidential candidate a year ago. Namely, he reinforces all the party's weaknesses. Democrats need to appeal to culturally traditional voters in the Midwest and border states who worry about the party's commitment to national security. Dean, with his intense secularism, arrogant style, throngs of high-profile counter-culture supporters and association with the peace movement, is the precise opposite of the image Democrats want to send out.

The conventional rap is completely right. But, in a way, Dean is even less suited to run the DNC than he is to run for president.

The DNC chairman has two main jobs. First, he transmits the party's message — an important role when the party lacks a president and majority leaders in Congress. This job requires one to master the dismal art of "message discipline," boiling down the party's ideas into a few simple phrases and repeating them over and over until they have sunk into the public consciousness.

It's a role for which Dean is particularly ill-suited. During his campaign, remember,

he fashioned himself a straight talker, delighting reporters by repeatedly wandering "off message." On the plus side, he won friends in the media by appearing honest and human. On the negative side, he did himself enormous damage, when, for example, he suggested that he wouldn't prejudice Osama bin Laden until he had been convicted in a court of law.

For presidential candidates, the negatives of "straight talk" usually outweigh the positives. Paul Maslin, Dean's former pollster, wrote in the Atlantic Monthly after the campaign fell apart: "Our candidate's erratic digression, loose tongue, and overall stubbornness wore our spirits down." But at least for a presidential campaign there are some positives in going off message. In a job like party chairman, a loose cannon is nothing but downside.

The second major task of the DNC chairman is to run the party organization. And here, if this is at all possible, Dean looks even worse. Garance Franke-Ruta, who wrote sympathetic Dean pieces in the American Prospect during the campaign, spoke with several former Dean staffers. One called the candidate "a horrible manager" and added, "I wouldn't trust him to run a company." Another called his management style "just a disaster."

Dean, remember, raised about \$50 million by positioning himself as the most anti-Bush candidate, but blew through it so fast that he was nearly broke by January. This represents the sort of financial acumen you associate with deluded, flash-in-the-pen celebrities — cue the narrator for VH1's "Behind the Music." But the good times and lavish spending couldn't last for M.C. Hammer — not with chairman of major political parties.

So how did Dean manage to trounce all



THE SCREAM, 2005...

comers for this position? Dean's supporters see his triumph as the victory of the masses over a tiny Democratic elite desperately trying to cling to power. As one left-liberal blogger gloated: "The fact that Howard Dean will most likely be heading up the Democratic Party is our victory. It is the voice of the grass roots lifted up into the halls of power once owned by the 'aristocracy of consultants.' That actually has it backward. A recent Wall Street Journal poll found that only 27 percent of Democrats approve of Dean."

In the latest issue of the New Republic, Ryan Lizza described how Dean had prevailed in a process of third-rate intrigue.

The choosing of the DNC chairman has been dominated by state parties, whose concerns revolve around expanding perks, including a demand for a \$200,000 handout for each state party from the national party. Nobody seemed to pay much attention to the good of the party as a whole. Meanwhile, Dean touched those leaders' ideological ergonomic zones, promising to "feed our core constituencies" and not be "Republican-lite."

As the last election showed, the core constituencies are plenty well fed. There just aren't enough of them to win the White House.

Jonathan Chait is a senior editor at The New Republic. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

PBS won't air 'Buster,' but it responds to fear factor

BY DEBRA CHASNOFF

This month I experienced *déjà vu*. PBS — the Public Broadcasting Service — decided not to distribute an episode of its cartoon "Postcards from Buster" in which Buster the animated bunny meets two children whose parents are lesbians. The same day the secretary of education sent PBS a letter demanding that the network not air this show. "Many parents would not want their young children exposed to the lifestyles portrayed in the episode," she wrote.

She also asked PBS to return federal funds used to make the episode.

I flashed back to 1999, when a documentary I directed, "It's Elementary — Talking About Gay Issues in School," was offered for broadcast through American Public Television. The film shows how and why schools are finding age-appropriate ways to address gay and lesbian issues in education — confronting anti-gay name-calling, helping students to discuss gay-related topics as part of lessons on current events and reading books that have characters with gay parents.

When "It's Elementary" was scheduled to air on public television, PBS received more letters of protest than for any other program in its history. And what was PBS's response? Said Robert Conrad, then president of the network: "This sounds to me like a program that helps parents do a better job of parenting, and that is the kind of thing that public broadcasting has a right to do."

"It's Elementary" went on to air on more than 300 public television stations around the country. No such courage this month.

Explaining why the network yanked the show, Lea Sloan, vice president of media re-

lations at PBS, said, "We wanted to make sure that parents had an opportunity to introduce this subject to their children in their own time."

What would be Education Secretary Margaret Spellings and the executives at PBS living in? It seems they think that there is one world where all the families and children live and another, separate one where all the gay people live. Apparently it's up to (straight) parents to decide when to open the borders and let their children have a controlled peek at the other side.

At this point in American history, that position is not only ridiculous, it's insulting and highly irresponsible. Millions of children have a parent, uncle, aunt, cousin, sibling or grandparent who is gay. Thousands of deli-

cated teachers, school administrators and coaches are gay or lesbians. What kind of message are we sending to our youth when we say that their loved ones and trusted mentors aren't safe for children to meet on TV?

Even if we keep Buster the bunny from visiting children whose parents are gay, we can't put the rabbit back in the hat. Gay people and gay issues are part of everyone's world now. Our only choice is whether we give kids the skills and opportunities to treat everyone respectfully, or whether we try to perpetuate a false silence around the real lives of millions of Americans.

There seems to be a fear that if we allow depictions of families on public TV that don't seem "typical" then somehow we are encouraging children to create those kinds

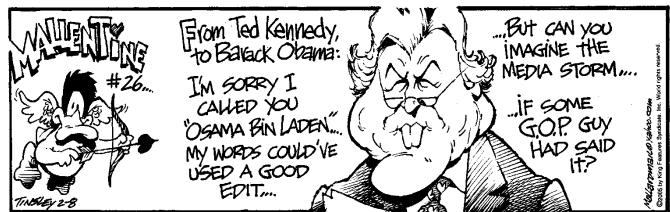
of families instead of the "real" or "legitimate" kind. In fact, when we give young people the opportunity to see that there are all types of family structures, we are helping to lay the foundation for them to understand and respect differences of all kinds, a skill that has never been more needed.

PBS says it seeks to use "the power of non-commercial television ... to enrich the lives of all Americans through quality programs and education services that inform, inspire and delight." All Americans means all kids, regardless of which combination of adults comes together to love and nurture them.

Debra Chasnoff is a filmmaker and winner of a 1991 Academy Award for best documentary short subject. She is director of the Respect for All Project, which works to advance understanding of diversity among Americans. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

BY BRUCE TINSLEY

Mallard Fillmore



Uninspected oil

NM ALBUQUERQUE — An environmental group says oil and gas wells in five western states aren't being inspected often enough, and the inspections that are done are more likely for production than ecological concerns.

In a report released, the Western Organization of Resource Councils said New Mexico, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota have 79 percent of the active wells on Bureau of Land Management land nationwide, but only 26 percent of the inspectors.

Inspections do not keep up with the rapid pace of oil and gas development, few enforcement actions are taken even when problems are identified, and citizens' complaints often are ignored, according to the report.

King memorial repairs

GA ATLANTA — The memorial where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. is buried needs \$11.6 million in repairs, according to a National Park Service report.

Problems include fire hazards and leaks at the center's archive building, which houses King's papers and other important documents from the civil rights movement, according to the report, which was obtained by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

"I was surprised at the extent of the problems," said Frank Catropa, superintendent of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site.

The King family controls the 24-year-old center through a non-profit corporation. The National Park Service manages the site but does not operate the King Center.

Taxing bull semen

ME AUGUSTA — Maine's dairy and beef farmers are furiously over a tax on bull semen that has been on the books for decades but only recently began appearing on bills for artificial insemination.

Genex Cooperative Inc., Maine's largest livestock semen distributor, previously had absorbed the tax. But as more states began initiating a tax on semen, company officials said they no longer could afford it.

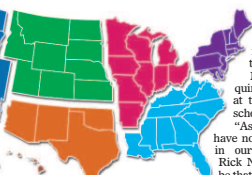
The tax is a minimum of \$800 to \$1,000 per year on an average small dairy farm, and up to \$5,000 for some of Maine's largest dairy operations.

This extra expenditure has pushed many farmers to lobby the state Legislature's Agriculture Committee to amend the sales tax laws to exempt semen.

The exemption has the backing of the Maine Farm Bureau, the Maine Dairy Industry Improvement Association and the Maine Beef Producers Association, among other groups.

Animals to be tracked

WA YAKIMA — State agricultural officials have begun assigning identification numbers to farms and ranches — a precursor to a broader animal identification system aimed at making it easier to track livestock in the future.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

The ability to trace livestock became crucial following the discovery of the nation's first case of mad cow disease in a Washington state Holstein in December 2003. The cow's origins were later traced to Canada, but not before dozens of countries closed their borders to U.S. beef products.

In the months since, authorities nationally have been pushing for the ability to trace animals and food products within 48 hours.

Identifying where livestock animals are born, raised, fed, sold or handled is key to such a system.

Drug cards at school

WV CHARLESTON — Administrators are trying to figure out how a woman was able to wander into a high school and hand out discount cards for a 30-day supply of a prescription drug used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

The card given to students at Point Pleasant High School reads "Adderall XR Achievers Program" and directs cardholders to show it along with a doctor's prescription to a pharmacist for redemption.

"My daughter told me that a woman with a visitor's pass on was handing it out at school," a mother, who asked to remain anonymous,



Church moves

Kuhn's House Moving, of Victoria, Kan., moves the Esque Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church building down a Pawnee County road near Larned, Kan. The abandoned church, which had served the black community, was moved from town to the Santa Fe Trail Center 2 miles west of town, where it will be restored.

told The Charleston Gazette. "The woman told her that it helps people to pay attention."

Mason County policy requires all visitors to sign in at the main offices of all schools.

"As far as we know, we have not had anyone like that in our building," Principal Rick Northrup said. "It may be that a person misrepresented herself, but we don't know."

A Kinky candidate

TX SAN ANTONIO — Muslim-turned-mystery author Kinky Friedman is promising an unconventional campaign in his independent bid to get elected Texas governor next year.

Wearing blue jeans, black cowboy hat, a black fringed Western jacket and smoking a cigar, Friedman announced his candidacy in front of the Alamo.

"We're going to wake up this great slumbering giant of Texas independence," he said.

About 200 people attended the announcement, which the 60-year-old Friedman made after an invocation from country singer-songwriter Billy Joe Shaver. It comes some 13 months before Democrats and Republicans select their nominees, whom Friedman has labeled "decaf or regular, paper or plastic."

Jewel theft manhunt

NY NEW YORK — A nationwide search was under way for a man accused of killing three jewelers during a robbery spree in New York and Connecticut.

Authorities believe Christopher DiMeo, 23, chatted up jewelry store employees and said he was looking for an engagement ring before he pulled out a gun and robbed them.

He allegedly took a total of nearly \$300,000 worth of merchandise.

In the most recent attack, jewelry store owner Timothy Donnelly and his wife Kimberly Ann were killed and robbed of an undetermined amount in Fairfield, Conn.

DiMeo also is accused of killing Thomas Remison and stealing about \$100,000 worth of jewelry on Dec. 21 in Glen Head, N.Y.

Bus driver arrested

NC CHARLOTTE — A school bus driver who had been drinking was tracked down by authorities after one of his passengers called 911 from a cell phone and reported the man was asleep at the wheel, authorities said.

Vernon Tobias Wallace, 23, was charged with driving with alcohol in his system after police and school officials finally found him and pulled over his bus. Another driver finished the route.

None of the 30 or so students headed for Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology was injured, according to a school district spokeswoman. Police would not release test results of Wallace's blood-alcohol level but said it was below 0.04 percent. The legal blood-alcohol level in North Carolina is 0.08 percent for recreational drivers, 0.04 percent for commercial drivers and 0.02 percent for drivers of school buses and daycare vans.



See, it looks like a heart The long necks of a pair of black swans form the shape of a heart while the birds nest at a pond at Deer Acres Zoo in Hackett, Ark. Black swans mate for life and are the only swan native to Australia.



Wild and woolly Event judge Wayne Sanders inspects Star, Victoria Park's fine wool cross lamb, during competition in the medium-weight division at the Cameron County Fair and Livestock Show in Los Fresnos, Texas.



Fastest outhouse wins The team from Northern Distributor, right, wins a heat of the annual outhouse race, the featured event of the annual Lake George, N.Y., Winter Carnival. Northern Distributor won the event.



Showing off

Twiggie the water-skiing squirrel does a lap of his pool during a demonstration at the Tulsa Boat Show in Tulsa, Okla.



Mardi Gras fun

Christopher Richardson, left, gives Ja'Nell Cody, center, of Atlanta, a turn playing his washboard on Bourbon Street in New Orleans. Parades rolled through new Orleans all weekend, culminating with Fat Tuesday this week.



Best of the best

Members of the Wade Hampton High School Air Force JROTC of Greenville, S.C., compete in the Facsimile Regulation competition during the National JROTC Drill Team Championships, held in Montgomery, Ala.



Watch granny go!

Eloise Robinson reacts as she slides downhill after getting a push from her granddaughter Christiana Zanger, 3, at Nelson Field in Bristol, Conn.

Prison flu epidemic

ND BISMARCK — North Dakota State Penitentiary officials say the prison has come down with the flu. Warden Tim Schuetzle, a deputy warden and the prison's chief of security were among 17 staff members who got sick, as did more than 100 inmates. The population of the penitentiary and the state prison farm totals about 870.

Infants contracted herpes

NY NEW YORK — City health officials are investigating the death of a baby boy who was one of three infants to contract herpes after a rabbi circumcised them.

Ten days after Rabbi Yitzchok Fischer performed religious circumcisions on twins last October, one died of herpes and the other tested positive for the virus, according to a complaint filed by the health department in Manhattan Supreme Court.

Under Jewish law, a mohel — someone who performs circumcisions — draws blood from the circumcision wound. Most mohels do it by hand, but Fischer uses a rare practice where he uses his mouth.

Fischer's lawyer, Mark Kurzman, told the Daily News that Fischer was cooperating with the investigation, although it's unclear whether Fischer submitted to the city's request for a blood test.

Wife indicted in death

TX LAKE JACKSON — A woman has been indicted on negligent homicide charges for allegedly giving her husband a sherry enema that killed him.

Michael Warner, 58, died last May after the enema caused his blood-alcohol level to rise to .47 percent.

"That's extremely high," Detective Lt. Robert Turner said. "You're either going to be in the hospital or the funeral home with that much alcohol."

Tammy Warner, 42, was indicted.

Turner said Michael Warner was an alcoholic who could not swallow liquid because of ulcers and heartburn.

Tammy Warner was released on \$30,000 bail.

Transvestite admits guilt

GA ALBANY — A transvestite who pumped industrial silicone into other men to give them feminine features pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the death of a man who suffered complications.

Stephen Thomas, 31, will serve five years in prison and 10 years on probation under the plea to felony involuntary manslaughter, which he entered.

The plea was appropriate because those involved were willing participants and there was no intent to kill, Chief Assistant District Attorney Greg Edwards said.

eBay cans date auction

MN WILLMAR — A teenager auctioning himself as a prom date has been booted off eBay — but he's still stealing the shirt off his back.

Nathan Carlson offered himself for auction after a conversation with some friends at Ridgewater

College. The bidding started at \$30.

But as the bids came in and exceeded \$260, Carlson added a comment that he'd contribute half the money to charity if the bidding went past \$1,500 — a big no-no for the online auction site.

That comment violated eBay's policies on auctions to benefit charity, and the Web site ended the auction.

Air-quality control

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Air-quality regulators have started clamping down on idling trucks and buses belching unhealthful pollutants.

State inspectors, aided by police and the California Highway Patrol, are enforcing a new rule that prohibits diesel-fueled trucks from standing with engines idling for more than five minutes and buses for more than 10 minutes.

Drivers caught ignoring it could get a citation carrying a minimum civil penalty of \$100 and one of a range of criminal penalties.

DI doesn't set record

FL WINTER PARK — A college disc jockey who thought he set a world record for the longest continuous radio broadcast has discovered that he apparently fell 10 hours short.

Dave Plotkin has been informed by officials at Guinness world records that his recent 110-hour, three-minute broadcast on Rollins College's WPRK-FM wasn't good enough for the all-time longest.

Actually, Guinness says that according to its records, a Sri Lankan man, Arulanantham Suresh Joachim, stayed on the air a record 120 hours in June 2002. Guinness says it took a year and a half to complete the documentation and update its database.

"Please send our apologies," said Sam Knights, a Guinness spokesman.

Plotkin said he plans an attempt of 144 hours by next year, if the station allows it.

Too cold for trouble

ME WATERVILLE — The nose-numbing cold that put Maine in the deep-freeze for much of January was enough to keep many Mainers in the warmth of their homes.

It also keeps crime rates down, law enforcement officials say.

In fact, crime rates generally go up and down in tandem with the rise and fall of outdoor temperatures, according to Maine Department of Public Safety statistics.

In 2003, Maine recorded 2,104 serious crimes in February and 3,387 crimes in July, a 61 percent increase over the span.

Lobbyist spending

WI MADISON — The state's largest teacher's union and the biggest business group spent the most money trying to influence lawmakers during the last two-year legislative session, according to state Ethics Board reports. Wisconsin Education Association Council spent \$1.5 million to Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce spent \$1.3 million. They were among groups that spent \$48.5 million on lobbying.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

It's Mardi Gras, a holiday believed to have ancient roots in some sort of intercalary season, in other words, related to a number of days inserted in a year to make a lunar calendar sync up with a solar calendar. These added days seemed to exist outside of time and therefore were seen as an opportunity to abandon protocol and simply go wild.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (February 8). There's a paradox at work this year: The more independent and self-sufficient you become, the more you are supported in your endeavors. Quick business wins are featured through the spring, but spend wisely, or you experience financial losses. A fabulous June vacation progresses your love life. For new romance, Virgo and Taurus are terrific.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your curiosity is piqued. Fascinating characters cross your path, and there's talk of changes on the horizon. Instead of being fearful, be on the cutting edge by conducting an interview of someone who seems to know what's going on.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The more interest you show in a subject or a person, the more interesting that subject or person becomes. It may feel like you're still getting to know someone who's been in your life for years.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A loving partner is just what you need to ground you. Together, you find solutions for today's strange and random problems. Laughter makes it all better, too. If you're single, a Virgo or Capricorn friend will be your anchor.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The obstacles you build in your mind have nothing to do with reality. This is especially true in reference to a central relationship. In actuality, one courageous phone call could solve everything.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The world may be in dismay, it's not the world's fault. Rather, it's our way of

mentally ordering information that makes it confusing. Get clarity by removing yourself from the muddle to look at things from another point of view.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

The stars whisper to you — pause to listen. They say things like "Be careful not to fall in love with someone's potential." You are observant and willing to see things how they are now instead of how they ought to be.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You feel that if you hesitate, you'll lose out. The reality is that if you hesitate, you'll be dragged along a rocky path behind the rest. So it's time to jump on your own two feet and run forward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your impressions are accurate as usual, but the differing opinions of those around you may knock you off your center. Approach new relationships with caution. The first 15 minutes determine how the rest will go.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your physical body is strongly affected by thoughts now. Look in the mirror, and give yourself the nod of approval, or better yet, a pep talk. This will noticeably improve your health.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're like a detective, ferretting out the true motivations of others — seemingly illogical behaviors are clever disguises that you see right through. Use what you know to find true-life friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Take nothing out of context. Each event is connected to the one before it and will affect the one after it. Your sliding sense of the past, present and future will guide you toward success.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Money is just money, so put those worries in their proper perspective and realize what the real issue is — priorities. If you can imagine something you'd rather be doing, then perhaps it's time to do that instead.

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Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



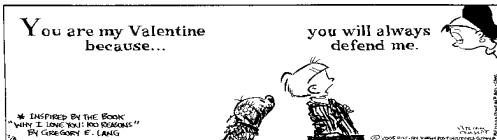
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



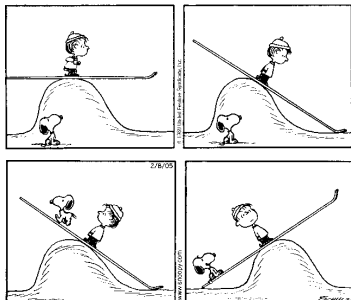
Red and Rover



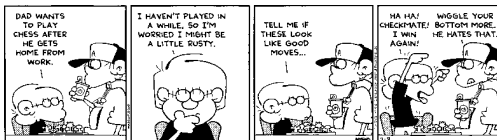
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fortrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blonde



Dilbert



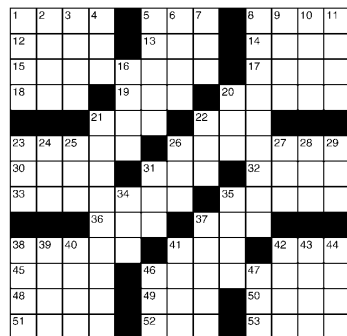
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- Support
- Accomplished
- California wine valley
- Guru's discipline
- Whatever number
- Individuals
- Region of France
- Second in command
- out a living
- Robinson
- Orange and Rose
- Coquettish
- Spasm
- Slate user's need
- Outre
- Commanded
- Little Lab
- Picture in pixels
- Catches some zzzs
- Makes like a rodent
- Torched
- Sales pitch?
- Ort
- Tank fill
- Firmament
- Siamese, now
- De Havilland's sister
- Have coming
- Raw rock
- Earth mover?
- Arboretum specimen
- Solidify
- AAA tasks

Down

- Nabors' role
- Castle
- Shrek is one
- Standard
- Supermarket section
- Hostels
- Coloring agent
- Local anesthetic
- From square one
- Rid of rind
- Venomous vipers
- Deadly control
- Occupation, for short
- British chanteuse
- Lagniappe
- A network
- Solo of "Star Wars"
- Commotion

- Kramden's transport
- 1980s GE acquisition
- Paddle
- Ern halves
- Speed along
- Heart of the matter
- "Crossfire" group
- Undo a dele
- Burn a bit
- Exceptional
- Former veep
- Missile shelter
- Recognize
- Evergreen trees
- Visibility hindrance
- Suitable

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-8

CRYPTOQUIP

NGLU JIYSUM EY Q GKZZKZ
VJKZI, IKE XEVJU'J PKZMLJ
JK QFFKN PKZ Q XQZMSU
KP J LZZKZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF I BEGAN COLLECTING BREATH-FRESHENER WRAPPERS, I'D WANT THEM IN MINT CONDITION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals R



Photo by Matt Bush

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Phil Mickelson, center, is greeted by fans while leaving the 16th green during the third round of the FBR Open in Scottsdale, Ariz., Saturday.

Fan favorite Lefty takes lead at FBR

The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Cheered on by tens of thousands who consider him their hometown hero, Phil Mickelson forged a four-shot lead over Kevin Na through three rounds of the FBR Open, a giant party that happens to have a golf tournament going through it.

Mickelson, who tied the course record with a 60 on Friday, shot a 5-under 66 — with birdies on the final two holes — on Saturday for a 14-under 199 total on the 7,216-yard Tournament Players Club course.

"It was a fun round," Mickelson said. "I mean, there's a lot of people out there. It was pretty interesting. It felt like I shot over par because of yesterday, but it was good enough to get in the lead."

He leads going into a final round for the first time since last year's Masters, and then was tied with Chris DiMarco.

Na, at 21 the youngest player on the PGA Tour, began the day tied for the lead with Mickelson, and still was even through 14, but his second shot went into the water on the 15th hole, then he missed a short putt to save par.

"From there, that crowd pulling for Phil so much and that little bit of, what do you call it, misstep kind of shook me up a little bit," Na said, "and affected me on the last couple of holes."

Na bogeyed the 16th and finished with a 70, leaving him four back at 10 under going into the final round of the \$5.2 million event.

Four were tied at 9 under — K.J. Choi, Harrison Frazar, Kenny Perry and Steve Flesch. Mark Calcavecchia and David Toms were 8 under. Toms got to 10 under but hit his tee shot into the water on the 14th for a double bogey.

The FBR event — formerly the Phoenix Open — draws the biggest crowd of any PGA tournament. An estimated 165,000 people came on a perfect, sun-baked Saturday — a single-day record for a tournament that draws about a half-million.

Golf roundup

"Awesome, isn't it?" Mickelson said. "Every year here is an amazing experience for all the players because of how many people we get here. You know, we average 40,000 or 50,000 on the tour, and here we had 165,000. This is amazing."

Practically every one of the revelers was cheering on Mickelson. "He's the desert son," Flesch said, "and that's the way it should be."

Parry wins Heineken playoff

MELBOURNE, Australia — Australia's Craig Parry ended Ernie Els' three-year hold on the Heineken Classic title Sunday, holing a 12-foot birdie putt on the fourth hole of a playoff with countrymen Nick O'Hern.

After Parry made his birdie putt on the fourth extra hole, O'Hern missed a 10-foot birdie attempt to end the tournament at historic Royal Melbourne.

Parry made par-saving putts on the first three playoff holes — the 18th twice and then the 17th, while O'Hern helped keep the playoff going by missing birdie putts inside 10 feet on the two opening holes.

Parry closed with a 1-under 70 to match O'Hern (71) at 14-under 270.

Els shot a 70 to finish at 12 under, two shots out of the playoff. He had three bogeys on the back nine, including the 18th.

Nicklaus claims Skins victory

WAILAIEA, Hawaii — Jack Nicklaus returned from a long layoff following back surgery to take the Champions Skins Game on Saturday, winning 11 straight skins and a career-high \$340,000 in a runaway victory over Craig Stadler.

Stadler, the 2004 Champions Tour player of the year, was second with five skins and \$180,000 in his Skins Game debut. Defending champion Tom Watson earned \$80,000 for his two late skins.

Sharapova denies Davenport record title

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova claimed the Pan Pacific Open final Sunday by defeating top-ranked Lindsay Davenport in a tiebreaker.

Second-seeded Sharapova captured her first Pan Pacific title and prevented Davenport from winning a record fifth title here after a hard fought 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (5) win at Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

"I'm very happy to have won," the Russian teenager said. "Lindsay played an amazing match and it all came down to the tiebreaker, so obviously it was a very tough match."

Top-seeded Davenport, who lost to Serena Williams in the final of the Australian Open a week ago, took a medical time-out after the first set and came back to take the momentum despite a sore left thigh.

She produced 13 aces Sunday but couldn't keep up with the 17-year-old Sharapova when it mattered most.

"I left the court to get some support on my left thigh," said Davenport. "I just went back out there and tried to keep the points as short as possible. In the tiebreaker, she came up with some great shots and I couldn't run down

Tennis roundup

Sharapova, who lost in the semifinals of the Australian Open to Williams, also served well in Sunday's final and had nine aces.

"I served well in the first set," said Sharapova, who pocketed the US\$18,000 winner's check. "But she came out after the break and got a little confidence. It's tough when your opponent serves so well. I served well too but it was my return that I was most satisfied with."

Davenport was gunning for her fifth Pan Pacific title, which would have made her the most successful player in the 22-year history of the event. Martina Hingis has also won here four times.

"Maria is a great player," said Davenport. "I'm sure you'll be seeing a lot more of her in the final in the years to come."

Sharapova has a history of winning in Japan. She is the two-time defending champion at the Japan Open.

"I guess this is my lucky place," said Sharapova. "I don't know why but I always

many balls."

Leading 6-5 in the tiebreaker, Sharapova won when Davenport couldn't catch up to her forehand return down the line.

seen to play well here."

With Sunday's victory, Sharapova will move up to No. 3 in the WTA rankings, behind Davenport and Williams but said she has no timetable for claiming the No. 1 spot.

"My job is to go out and perform well," said Sharapova. "I have no timetable to become No. 1 in the world. If it happens, it happens."

In the doubles final, the second-seeded pair of Janette Husárová of Slovakia and Elena Likhovtseva of Russia downed Davenport and fellow American Corina Morariu 6-4, 6-3.

Martinez breaks title drought

PATTAYA, Thailand — Former Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez claimed her first title in more than four years Sunday after grinding out a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 win over Anna Vetrova of Germany to win the WTA Volvo Women's Open.

Drawing on her superior experience, third-seeded Martinez rallied from a second set loss to beat the 19-year-old, seventh-seeded German for her 33rd career title. Her last singles title was in Berlin in 2000.

"It was tough at the beginning of the week but I felt better towards the end," the 32-year-old Spaniard said.



Maria Sharapova reacts after beating Lindsay Davenport in the final of the Pan Pacific Open in a third-set tiebreaker on Sunday.

Ordonez signs with Tigers for up to \$105M

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Detroit Tigers snared the last remaining premier free agent of the offseason, agreeing to a \$75 million, five-year contract with outfielder Magglio Ordonez, a baseball source said Saturday.

Ordonez's deal could be worth up to \$105 million over seven seasons, the source told The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

Under the complicated deal, Detroit would have the right to void the contract after the 2005 season if Ordonez has a recurrence of the left knee injury that hampered his production with the Chicago White Sox for most of last year and the recurrence lands him on the disabled list for 25 days or more.

The 31-year-old Ordonez gets a \$6 million signing bonus and a \$6 million salary in 2005, meaning the Tigers' exposure is \$12 million.

His contract calls for a \$15 million salary in 2006, \$12 million in 2007, \$15 million in 2008 and \$18 million in 2009. Detroit has a \$15 million option for 2010 with a \$3 million buyout, and a \$15 million option for 2011 with no buyout.

The Chicago Cubs, Toronto Blue Jays and Texas Rangers backed out of talks this week, and the New York Mets told Ordonez's agent, Scott Boras, on Friday that they were not prepared to move quickly and would first want to examine the player.

A four-time All-Star, Ordonez hit .292 last season with nine homers and 37 RBIs in 122 at-bats for the Chicago White Sox. A career .307 hitter with 187 homers, he missed 36 games after injuring his left knee May 19 — an injury that required two operations, then went on the disabled list for good on July 22 with bone marrow edema.

Ordonez made \$14 million last season and the White Sox made no effort to re-sign him.

Judah takes Spinks' title with TKO

ST. LOUIS — Zab Judah claimed the undisputed welterweight title, beating Cory Spinks in his hometown with a ninth-round technical knockout Saturday night.

Judah lost a unanimous decision to Spinks in April in Las Vegas.

He knocked Spinks down in the 12th round of that fight and referred to the rematch as the 13th round, saying he simply ran out of time.

Judah was the aggressor throughout this fight, neutralizing the crowd of more than 20,000 that



Zab Judah, right, knocks down Cory Spinks in the ninth round of the undisputed welterweight title bout on Saturday. Judah won by TKO in the ninth round.

chanted for Spinks, the son of former heavyweight champion Leon Spinks, who accompanied his son into the ring.

The fight was stopped at 2:49 of the ninth round, after Spinks was knocked down for the second time. Judah pressed the attack after the first knockdown and avoided Spinks' desperate efforts to tie him up.

All three judges had Judah (33-2, 24 knockouts) comfortably ahead when the bout was stopped.

Judah set the tone from the first round, stalking Spinks while the champion mostly danced. He also staggered Spinks, dropping him to his knees at the bell in the seventh round, but it was not judged a knockdown.

Americans stage 1-4 finish in speedskating worlds

MOSCOW — Shani Davis led the United States to an unprecedented 1-4 finish in the men's 1500-meter race and a 1-2 sweep of the overall honors at the world around speedskating championships on Sunday.

Davis collected 150,777 points to top the men's all-round podium. Defending champion Chad Hedrick was second overall with 150,916.

Davis is the fourth American world around champion after Eric Heiden (1977-79), Eric Llane (1988) and Hedrick.

In the 1,500-meter race, Davis clocked 1 minute, 46.60 seconds to beat Hedrick by 1.10 seconds in the newly built Indoor Ice Skating Center.

KC Boutiette of the U.S. was third in 1:48.79, finishing 19 hundredths of a second ahead of yet another American, Derek Parra.

Kostelic wins downhill; Kildow is fourth again

BY ERICA BULMAN

The Associated Press

SANTA CATERINA VALFURVA, Italy — Croatia's Janica Kostelic won her second gold medal in three days, capturing the downhill at the world championships in another emphatic step in her recovery from illness and injury.

Kostelic, winner of Friday's combined, missed all of last season after thyroid surgery and several knee operations and hadn't raced a downhill in almost two years. On Sunday, she cut a daring line down the chilly, sun-drenched course to win in 1 minute, 39.90 seconds.

"This may be my favorite victory," she said. "It's hard to say because all victories are special. But it's something I never expected so soon, especially after last season. I don't know how it happened."

Elena Fanchini of Italy rewarded the home crowd by taking the silver medal in 1:40:16. Renate Goetschl of Austria was third in 1:40:20, beating Lindsey Kildow of the United States for a medal.

The American finished fourth for the second time at these worlds, and countrywoman Jonna Mendes was 12th.

Fanchini, a 19-year-old rookie, made her World Cup debut last month, placing 17th in a pair of downhills. This time, she set the pace early, then watched as 16 other racers were unable to match her time. It was only when Kostelic came down that Fanchini was ousted from the leader's spot.

Goetschl, who won the World Cup downhill title last year, leads this season's standings. She also won the downhill at the 1999 worlds in Vail, Colo.

Kostelic was trying to give her country a first at Austria's men Saturday lost the downhill title for the first time in six years. She struggled at the beginning of this



American Lindsey Kildow reacts after finishing in fourth place in the Women's downhill at the World Alpine Ski Championships.

season but won three of four speed races in Cortina d'Ampezzo last month.

Kildow finished ninth in last weekend's super-G and fourth in the two World Cup races in Bormio last month. "I may be young, but my goal was to be world champion here. I have to go back to the drawing board to figure out what it's going to take."

"I don't work six hours in the gym just to be fourth," said Kildow, who finished second and fourth in the two World Cup races in Bormio last month. "I may be young, but my goal was to be world champion here. I have to go back to the drawing board to figure out what it's going to take."

"Maybe my time is next year," she added, referring to the Turin Olympics.

Michela Dorfmeister, the 2001 downhill world champion and one of the favorites, crashed out.

Air Force's MWC title hopes hurt as Wyoming wins overtime decision

The Associated Press

LARAMIE, Wyo. — Jay Straight scored seven of his 18 points in overtime leading Wyoming past Air Force 67-63 on Saturday night, damaging the Falcons' title hopes in the Mountain West Conference.

Wyoming (12-8, 4-3 MWC) has won four of its last five games, while the Falcons (14-8, 5-2) saw their two-game win streak end. Air Force fell two games behind No. 21 Utah, which beat San Diego State 61-41 Saturday night to improve to 7-0 in the league.

Wyoming forced overtime when Steve Leven sank a three-pointer after Straight found him with 10 seconds left in regulation, tying the score 51-51.

With Wyoming leading 56-55 at the 2:39 mark of overtime, the Cowboys' Dion Sherrell committed his fifth foul, but Dan Nwaeleke of Air Force was hit with a technical when he inexplicably slammed the ball to the floor.

Nwaeleke, who later said he thought he had been called for the foul, hit two free throws, but Straight then sank the two technical foul shots and Wyoming was back on top 58-57.

Wyoming outscored the Falcons 9-6 the rest of the way, with Straight scoring five points.

Sherrell contributed 11 points and Justin Williams and Leven added 10 points. Wyoming outscored Air Force 39-22, including 25-15 on offensive boards, and outshot the Falcons 50 percent to 41 percent.



AP

Wyoming's Steve Leven, center, loses the ball while under pressure from Air Force defenders Antoine Hood (15) and Caleb Buchanan on Saturday night.

Air Force, which trailed 32-25 at the half, got 13 points apiece from Jacob Buttschi and Nwaeleke. Antoine Hood had 12 and Nick Welch 10.

The Falcons hit only 11 of 31 three-point attempts, including 4-for-14 in the first half. Wyoming made five of 12 three-pointers for the game.

The game was the 200th for Wyoming coach Steve McClain, whose record is 123-77.

Navy gets revenge, thumps Army 84-69

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Taj Matthews scored a career-high 26 points Sunday to lead Navy to an 84-69 victory over Army.

Matthews was 6-for-14 on three-pointers in his final Army-Navy game, leading five Middies in double figures. Matthews also added a career-high eight rebounds.

Greg Sprink added 14 points, including four three-pointers, and 10 rebounds for Navy, which made a season-best 13 threes in a season-high 34 attempts.

Matt Fannin and Corey Johnson added 12 points each and George O'Garra scored 11 for Navy (7-15, 3-6 Patriot League).

Navy avenged a 63-43 loss at Army on Jan. 23 and prevented an Army sweep of the series for the first time since 1992.

Navy held a big rebounding advantage over the Knights (47-29) and made 23 free throws to Army's 12.

Army (3-18, 1-8) was led by Grant Carter's 21 points, all on three-pointers. Matt Bell added 16 points and Colin Harris 12.

Navy jumped to a 12-1 lead as Army missed its first seven shots and didn't score a basket over the first six minutes.

The Middies ran the lead to 34-19 before Army went on a 13-0



AP

Army's Cory Sinning, left, and Navy's Corey Johnson pursue a loose ball during Sunday's game. Navy overpowered Army 84-69.

run to end the half. Navy didn't score over the final 4:22 of the half, missing its final six shots.

The teams were tied 37-37 with 1:38 to play when Navy went on a 14-2 run to build a 51-39 advantage with 14:10 to play.

Carolina erupts late to choke off Florida St.

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Rashad McCants' dunk ignited a 25-6 run down the stretch and No. 2 North Carolina beat Florida State 81-60 on Sunday.

Florida State (11-11, 3-6 Atlantic Coast Conference) clawed back from an 18-point first-half deficit, getting to 49-48 on Diego Romero's three-pointer with 14:16 left.

McCants, who led all scorers with 16 points, dunked off a pass from Raymond Felton 20 seconds later and, within nine minutes, the Tar Heels were up 74-54 as Florida State went scoreless for more than seven minutes.

A year ago North Carolina blew a 24-point lead at Florida State, losing 90-81 in overtime.

McCants capped a 16-2 run in the first half with a jump that helped North Carolina to a 38-20 lead before Florida State closed out the half with nine straight points.

Felton added 14 points and Sean May and Marvin Williams each had 13 for the Tar Heels.

North Carolina (19-2, 8-1) shot just 40 percent, but committed only nine turnovers for the second straight game while Florida State had 22.

Von Wafer led Florida State with 14 points and Adam Walekowsky added 13.

In Saturday games:



No. 9 Louisville 77, UAB 73:

At Birmingham, Ala., Francisco Garcia and Juan Palacios hit two free throws each in the final 34 seconds as Louisville extended its winning streak to nine.

The Cardinals (20-3, 8-1 Conference USA) closed the game on a 7-2 run after the Blazers (16-6, 6-3) briefly took the lead.

Larry O'Bannon finished with 21 points, Garcia had 19 points and played the final 3:25 with four fouls and the Cardinals made 19 of 21 free throws.

Demario Eddins scored 18 points, Donell Taylor had 16 and Ronell Taylor 11 for UAB.

No. 10 Oklahoma St. 81, Baylor 63:

At Waco, Texas, John Lucas III scored 11 of his 14 points in the first half to celebrate his final visit to the place where he started his college career.

Ivan McFarlin had 18 points, Jameson Curry 14, Stephen Graham 13 and Joey Graham 12 for the Cowboys (17-3, 7-2 Big 12).

Aaron Bruce, a freshman point guard from Australia, scored 33 points for Baylor (9-10, 1-7), which has lost five straight.

Lucas began his career at Baylor, along with Lawrence Roberts (Mississippi State) and Kenny

Taylor (Texas). The trio left under relaxed transfer rules before last season after a scandal under former coach Dave Bliss that was exposed after the shooting death of a player.

No. 13 Washington St. UCLA 70:

At Seattle, Brandon Roy scored 16 of his 20 points in the second half, and Washington (19-3, 9-2 Pac-10) overcame 38 percent shooting to beat UCLA (12-7, 6-5).

Washington extended its home winning streak to 20 games, the school's longest run since winning 23 straight in 1952-53.

Dijon Thompson scored 22 points for the Bruins and freshman Josh Shipp added 20.

Texas Tech 88, No. 14 Oklahoma 61:

Jarrius Jackson scored 32 points, Devonne Giles added 17 and Texas Tech (14-5, 6-2 Big 12) upset Oklahoma (17-4, 6-2), snapping the Sooners' 14-game home winning streak.

Jackson scored 19 points in the first half as Tech (14-5, 6-2 Big 12) built a 14-point lead to take control.

Taj Gray had 20 points and 15 rebounds and Lawrence McKenzie scored 16 for Oklahoma, which has lost two of three after winning 10 straight.

No. 17 Gonzaga 92, Santa Clara 75:

At Spokane, Wash., Ronny Turiaf and Adam Morrison each scored 22 points to lead

Gonzaga (17-4, 7-2 West Coast Conference) over Santa Clara (12-12, 5-4).

J.P. Batista added 19 points and 15 rebounds for Gonzaga. The Bulldogs built an early lead as Santa Clara missed 12 of its first 13 shots.

Santa Clara, which has wins over No. 2 North Carolina and Stanford this season, shot just 39 percent. Kyle Bailey led the Broncos with 25 points, hitting 10 of 11 free throws.

There were 48 fouls called in the game, and Santa Clara made 23 of 28 free throws.

Charlotte 91, No. 18 Cincinnati 90:

At Charlotte, N.C., Brendan Plevelich scored all but two of his 26 points on three-pointers to lead Charlotte (15-4, 6-2 Conference USA) over Cincinnati (17-5, 6-3) in the final regular-season meeting between the two Conference USA rivals.

The Bearcats' Eric Hicks was fouled under the basket and sent to the line with a chance to tie it, but Hicks made just one of his five throws. Hicks led Cincinnati with 20 points.

Eddie Bassen finished with 20 points, 11 rebounds and four steals for Charlotte. His four steals gave him 231 for his career, tying the conference record.

Cincinnati heads to the Big East next season and Charlotte will move to the Atlantic 10.

Iowa State 92, No. 20 Texas

80 (OT): Tasheed Carr scored 13 points in overtime and Iowa State (11-8, 3-5 Big 12) ended a 28-game Big 12 road losing streak by surprising Texas (15-4, 4-4).

Iowa State (11-8, 3-5) hadn't won on the road in the Big 12 since beating Kansas State on Feb. 21, 2001.

Daniel Gibson scored 23 to lead Texas and Brad Buckman had 20 points and 15 rebounds. Buckman missed a free throw that would have given the Longhorns a three-point cushion with 49 seconds left before Will Blacklock's tying shot with 37 seconds left in regulation.

Richard Chancy scored nine of his 11 points in the second half.

Marcus Slaughter led San Diego State (9-11, 3-4) with 18 points and eight rebounds. Brandon Heath, the Aztecs' leading scorer with an 18.2 average, was limited to six points on 3-for-8 shooting.

No. 24 Villanova 89, Providence 81:

At Villanova, Pa., Curtis Sumpster had 24 points and 13 rebounds. Allan Ray scored 20 and Randy Foye 19 to lead Villanova (13-5, 5-4 Big East) over Providence (11-11, 0-8).



A crowd of 33,199, a record for an on-campus arena, attended Saturday night's Notre Dame-Syracuse game in the Carrier Dome at Syracuse, N.Y. The crowd broke the mark of 33,071 set for the Rutgers-Syracuse game in the Carrier Dome on March 9, 2003. The largest crowd ever to attend a college basketball game was 78,129 for the Kentucky-Michigan State game at Ford Field in Detroit, Mich., on Dec. 13, 2003.

Huge crowd, huge win for Syracuse

BY JOHN KEKIS
The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — When the size of the raucous orange-clad Carrier Dome crowd was announced during the second half, chills went down Gerry McNamara's spine. Then the Syracuse ace went out and helped ice Notre

Dame. McNamara scored 22 points, Hakim Warrick had 20 and the eighth-ranked Orange staged a furious late rally to beat the Irish 60-57 before 33,199, an NCAA record for a game in a campus arena.

"The excitement tonight was unlike anything I've been a part of," said McNamara, who scored 18 points in the second half. "The sad thing is we were down at the end and we had to pay attention to coach."

Syracuse (21-2, 8-1 Big East) won down virtually the whole

"We just didn't want to send all these people home mad, and for a second it looked as if it was going to be like that."

Hakim Warrick
Syracuse center

game until the final five minutes, and Notre Dame (13-6, 5-4) appeared on the verge of ending the Orange's 18-game home winning streak when Torin Francis converted a three-point play to put the Irish up 50-39 with 6:05 left.

With McNamara playing despite four fouls, Warrick took over inside, slamming home three dunks and hitting two free throws as the Orange used a pressing defense to spark an 11-0 run. McNamara, who missed all five of his three-point attempts in the first half, hit his third straight

three of the second to pull Syracuse to 50-48 and the crowd erupted with a deafening roar, chanting "Gerry! Gerry!"

Chris Quinn was then called for a 5-second violation, Notre Dame coach Mike Brey protested and received a technical, and McNamara made two free throws to tie it 50-50 with 3:24 left.

"We just got careless with the ball," said Francis, who finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds. "The game was just going their way towards the end. The rest of the game we were in control. We

had a couple of turnovers, they were hitting free throws, and the next thing I knew it was tied."

McNamara was fouled by Chris Thomas while attempting a three with 1:48 left and hit all three free throws to put Syracuse up 55-52.

Francis's turnaround jumper in the lane made it 56-54 with 32.6 seconds left, but McNamara hit four more free throws to finish 11-for-11 from the line and keep Syracuse in front.

After Dennis Latimore's dunk with 19.5 seconds left, Terrence Roberts missed four straight foul shots for Syracuse, giving the Irish one last chance. Thomas nearly sent the game into overtime, but his desperation heave from beyond half court at the buzzer hit the rim and caromed away.

"We just didn't want to send all these people home mad, and for a second it looked as if it was going to be like that," Warrick said.

W.Virginia surprises Pittsburgh

BY JOHN RABY
The Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Kevin Pittsnogle is so unaccustomed to starting that he had to take an early rest on Saturday. Refreshed, the West Virginia center left Pitt breathless.

Pittsnogle scored eight of his career-high 27 points in overtime to lead West Virginia to an 83-78 victory over No. 16 Pittsburgh on Saturday night. The 6-foot-11 Pittsnogle, averaging 8 points a game, got his second start of the season because D'or Fischer was ill.

"When I got my second wind pretty fast, I was ready to go," said Pittsnogle, whose previous high was 26 points in 2003. "My performance wasn't enough to write me in the history book, but beating Pitt makes it a lot better."

West Virginia (13-7, 3-6 Big East) broke a five-game losing streak to its rival 70 miles to the north.

Pittsnogle converted a three-point play and a three-pointer a minute apart to give the Mountaineers a 73-66 lead with 2:08 left in overtime.

"Pittsnogle is a hard matchup for us and when he's shooting the ball from (outside), it becomes very difficult to guard for our bigger guys," Pitt coach Jamie Dixon said. "Sometimes guys step up in the absence of other guys, and that's exactly what he did."

Fischer is West Virginia's No. 3 scorer and No. 2 rebounder, but he was hardly missed as Pittsnogle filled in well, making 10 of 17 shots.

The Mountaineers committed just four turnovers and erased a double-digit deficit in the second half to beat a ranked team for the first time in five tries during a grueling three-week stretch.

Hundreds of fans from the student section stormed the court and mobbed the Mountaineer players after the final buzzer. The WVU band played "Happy Birthday" and the leftover crowd sang to third-year coach John Beilein, who celebrated his 52nd birthday Saturday.

Chevon Troutman scored 25 points for Pittsburgh (15-4, 5-3).

ACC-bound Boston College sets Big East win mark

BY JIM O'CONNELL
The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Boston College set a record it never will be able to break.

The fifth-ranked Eagles beat Seton Hall 60-52 on Saturday night to become the first team in Big East history to go 20-0. And the Eagles did it in their last season in the league.

"That's pretty cool to go out with a bang," junior forward Craig Smith said. "To be the first team ever in this last year, that's something special."

Jared Dudley had 20 points and 14 rebounds for Boston College (20-0, 9-0), which set a school record for a winning streak and remained with No. 1 Illinois as the only major-college unbeaten.

Just as in a few of the Eagles' victories this season, the victory over Seton Hall (10-9, 2-6) wasn't high on style points. But Boston College won despite playing at the pace Seton Hall wanted and by scoring a season-low point total on a night it shot well below its average.

"I'd give it a 6. It was kind of ugly," Dudley said when asked to

grade the win on a scale of 1 to 10. "But we passed the test and move on."

Smith had 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Eagles, who came into the game averaging 74.2 points on 46.6 percent shooting. Sean Marshall added 12 points, all in the first half.

John Allen had 12 points for the Pirates, who came in last in the Big East in scoring (64.5 points a game) and shooting (40.6 percent).

Dudley's three-pointer with 2:32 left gave Boston College a 52-47 lead. Andrew Sweet's

three-point play got Seton Hall within two with 2:05 left, but the Pirates scored on only one of their final five possessions and the Eagles closed with an 8-2 run.

"This was the same type scenario as some of the early wins, but Seton Hall was better than those teams," Eagles coach Al Skinner said, referring to overtime non-conference defeats of Holy Cross and Yale and a big comeback victory over Kent State. "Sometimes we just win. We were fortunate to come up with some big plays."

Seton Hall coach Louis Orr blamed his team's loss on how it performed in the final minutes.

"We held Boston College to 37 percent shooting, but there's a sense of toughness that we still need to obtain in order to finish these games," he said. "We have been able in the past to win these games with poor shooting because we understood how to play with toughness."

Two Big East teams had gone 19-0 before, but Connecticut in 1998-99 and Syracuse in 1999-2000 both lost in their 20th game.

The Eagles, who will join the Atlantic Coast Conference next season, won 19 straight games in the 1968-69 season.

SPORTS



James gets Cavs' homestand
off to good start,
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Illinois keeps streak alive

No. 1 held to low but still pulls off win over Hoosiers

BY JIM PAUL

The Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Deron Williams couldn't get one shot to fall. A lot of his passes, though, were right on target.

Williams had assists on Illinois' first seven baskets and finished with 11 as the top-ranked Illini remained unbeaten with a 60-47 victory over Indiana on Sunday. It was the lowest-scoring game of the season for Illinois (23-0, 9-0 Big Ten), which held the Hoosiers to their second-lowest output of the season.

"We got a 'W,' That's all I care about," said Williams, who was 0-for-7 from the field. His only point was a free throw with 2:15 left. "I just didn't shoot the ball well. I still got my teammates involved. That's what I try to do."

James Augustine scored 16 points and Luther Head had 13 for the Illini, who should remain the unanimous No. 1 in The Associated Press' college basketball poll for a second straight week. Dee Brown added 12 points and Roger Powell Jr. had 10.

The Illini let a 20-3 run to start the game evaporate as the Hoosiers outscored them 17-6 over the final 8:15 of the first half to trail 26-20.

"It was probably the worst thing to happen," Illini coach Bruce Weber said of the big early lead. Head got into foul trouble and some spotty play from reserves caused the Illini to struggle against Indiana's zone defense.

"We weren't sharp, that's for sure," Weber said. "You're not going to play perfect all the time. You wish you could but we didn't."

Illinois and No. 5 Boston College (20-0) are the only unbeaten teams remaining in Division I.

Illinois' previous low came in a 67-45 victory over Cincinnati on Dec. 31. Indiana (10-10, 5-4) scored a season-low 45 against Notre Dame on Dec. 8.

The Hoosiers played without leading scorer Bracey Wright, who missed the game with an injured left ankle. Coach Mike Davis started four freshmen against the Illini.

"What better growing-up pill to give them than to play them on the road against the No. 1 team in the country in an environment like this," Davis said.

Robert Vaden and D.J. White, both freshmen, each scored 12 points for the Hoosiers, who shot 38 percent from the field.

"We're still learning a lot of things," said White, whose 13.7 average is second on the team to Wright's 18.5. "I feel we can be with the best in the years to come if you want to look ahead."

The Illini jumped to a 20-3 lead on Williams' playmaking. After two free throws from Augustine opened the scoring, Williams punched a loose ball to the streaking Augustine for a dunk.

"I just hit it ahead to James, rather than catch it and throw it," Williams said. "I thought it would get there faster if I just hit it ahead."



Illinois' James Augustine (40) dunks the ball on a breakaway during first-half action against Indiana at Assembly Hall in Champaign, Ill., on Sunday. No. 1 Illinois beat Indiana 60-47.

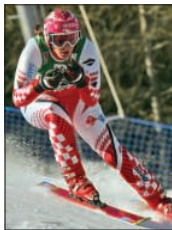
Then as the Hoosiers brought the ball upcourt, Brown poked it away from Marshall Strickland and found Williams, who passed to Head for another dunk that made it 6-0 just 3:02 into the game.

Indiana missed eight of its first nine shots before White's three-point play triggered an 8-2 run that brought the Hoosiers within 22-11.

"We didn't come out as sharp as we'd like

to," Strickland said. "But I think we battled back nicely. I think our defense just stepped up. We wanted to settle in."

Illinois went on a 13-2 run to begin the second half. Brown had two three-pointers and Head added one from long range during the run that put the Illini up 39-22 with 15:33 to go. Indiana trailed by double figures thereafter.



Kostelic takes
downhill gold;
Disappointed
Kildow fourth

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Mickelson giving
hometown fans
reason to party
at FBR Open

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Sharapova
tops Davenport,
will rise to No. 3

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The Super Bowl between
the Patriots and Eagles
ended too late to be
included in this edition.

Ordonez, last premier free agent, signs with Tigers Page 29

